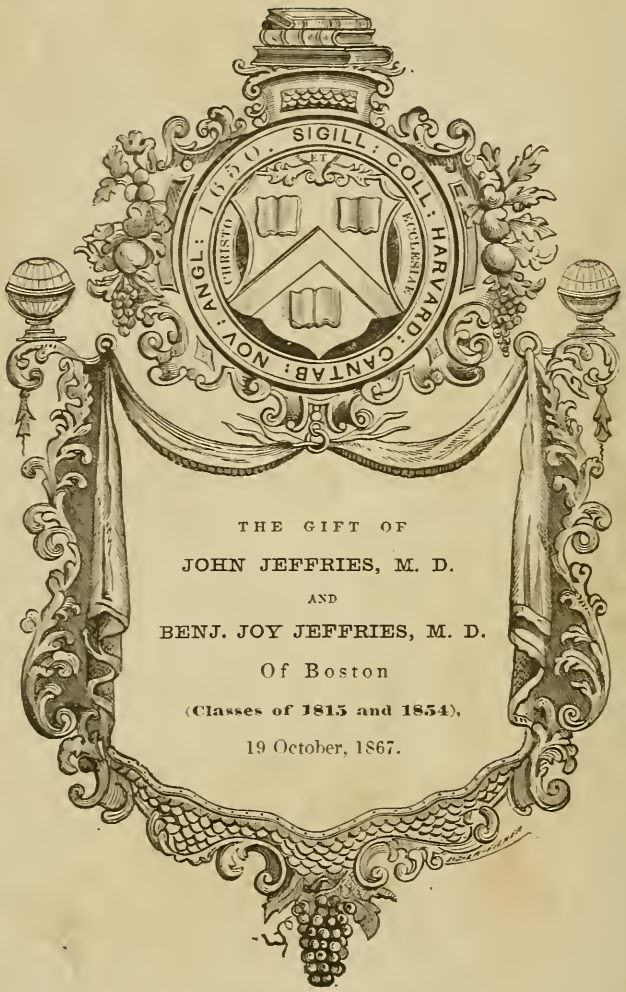

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MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS ON VARIOUS DISEASES:

Publiſhed from the LETTERS OF

THOMAS THOMPSON, M. D.
Phyſician to his late ROYAL HIGHNESS
FREDERIC Prince of Wales.

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PREFACE.

THE greateſt part of the letters in this volume were addreſſed to the Editor, who being acquainted with ſeveral of his learned friend's correſpondents, procured from them copies of the other conſultations here publiſhed; to all which, as far as his information could extend, he has annexed the iſſue of the method of cure, which, he doubts not, will be acknowledged, by the intelligent of the profeſſion, to have been conducted upon

the moſt rational principles, and with a remarkable ſimplicity of preſcription.

Theſe conſultations contain almoſt a complete body of medical practice; and the Editor flatters himſelf, that being written in the epiſtolary form, they will prove more uſeful, eſpecially to young phyſicians, than more laboured ſyſtems.

No fame can attend, and no emolument is deſired from the publication. If the work proves acceptable to the gentlemen of the faculty, it is all that is deſired by the

EDITOR.

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MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS.

CASE I.

Of a Vomiting.

SIR,

I Received your letter yeſterday, reſpecting the lady who is troubled with a vomiting. The circumſtances, of which you accurately inform me, are, that ſhe is about thirty-ſix years of age, and, before the diſorder ſeized her, was of a plump habit of body, though now ſhe is greatly fallen

off: that this complaint firſt attacked her ſome months ago, at the time when ſhe was a nurſe, and that ſhe vomits almoſt all the food ſhe takes, within two or three minutes after eating.

As it appears that ſhe formerly enjoyed a good ſtate of health, but has always been ſomewhat delicate in her conſtitution, I am inclined to aſcribe her preſent complaint, not to any fixed diſorder in her ſtomach, but merely to a weakneſs, occaſioned probably by ſuckling, which is often the cauſe of various diſorders in delicate women; and from this conſideration I would entertain great hopes of her recovery.

I AM not in the leaſt ſurpriſed that ſhe is ſenſible of no benefit from ſpearmint water, in the uſe of which, it ſeems, ſhe has ſo long perſevered. That water, as far as I have obſerved, contains only a ſedative, not a ſtrengthening quality; and where it failed of removing

moving an irritation in the ſtomach, on being taken once or twice, I have ſeldom or never known a continuance in the uſe of it attended with any ſucceſs.

WHAT I have always found to produce the beſt effects in complaints ariſeing from a debility of the ſtomach, next to the waters of Bath, and Aix la Chapple, are, the Peruvian bark, and ſteel medicines, united with ſome of the moſt grateful bitters. To you I ſhould think it wholly unneceſſary to mention any particular preſcription; but being confident of the laudable attention you pay to medical facts, I ſhall embrace this opportunity of ſpecifying a compoſition, which I have ſeveral times found effectual in curing ſuch complaints. It is as follows.

R. Cort. Peruvian. craſſe pulver. aurantior. ana uncias duas, vin. Liſbonenſ. lib. duas; infunde per quatuor vel ſex dies, collaturæ

adde, vin. chalybeat. uncias quatuor.

I commonly adviſe the patient to begin with one ſpoonful of this tincture, twice or thrice a day, and increaſe the doſe gradually to two or three ſpoonfuls, as it is found that the ſtomach can bear it. This medicine generally performs a cure in the ſpace of ſix weeks, or two months; but moderate exerciſe, the beſt of which is certainly riding on horſe-back, ought always to be uſed along with it. I need not mention the concomitant injunctions, of uſing aliments of the lighteſt kind, and of taking them in ſmall quantity at a time, until the ſtomach has recovered its ſtrength; nor yet of preſerving, as much as poſſible, tranquillity of mind, than which nothing is more requiſite in the cure of ſtomachic complaints.

I ſhall be glad to know the ſucceſs of our endeavours, and am, &c.

From

From the time that the lady began to uſe the above-mentioned tincture, the complaint in her ſtomach gradually abated, and in the ſpace of two months was entirely removed.

CASE II.

Difficulty of Deglutition, from a Tumor about the Bottom of the Oeſophagus.

SIR,

I ENTIRELY concur with you in opinion, that the difficulty of deglutition in the gentleman of whoſe caſe you ſend me an account, is owing chiefly to a tumor, and not a ſpaſmodic conſtriction, about the bottom of the Oeſophagus. What confirms me in this opinion, is, that though during this twelvemonth paſt, at which time he was firſt ſenſible of the complaint, he has uſed nervous medicines with a liberal hand, yet the

diſorder has rather increaſed than diminiſhed. Beſides, it does not appear that the impediment you deſcribe is accompanied with any other ſymptom which can be attributed to a ſpaſmodic cauſe. It would perhaps be too dogmatical, however, to deny the ſmalleſt degree of a nervous affection to exiſt in the caſe of this patient; for the variable ſtate of the diſorder, being ſometimes better and ſometimes worſe, ſeems ſtrongly to evince the reality of ſuch a complication.

It is much to be regretted, that the gentleman has been ſo late of putting himſelf under your care, as he is now greatly emaciated by the long continuance of the diſorder. But if it be in the power of art to afford him any relief, in his preſent ſituation, I am fully perſuaded that calomel is the medicine which ought to be tried. I have known it effect a cure in two inſtances of a ſimilar nature; but the patients had begun the uſe of it at an earlier period of the

diſ-

diſeaſe, before the faculty of deglutition became ſo much interrupted as to impair the ſtrength in any conſiderable degree, and render them incapable of ſupporting under the accidents which might be produced by the operation of the remedy. It is peculiarly unfortunate, that the gentleman labours under a weakneſs of the bowels ſince he formerly had the dyſentery; as this circumſtance will require great caution in the uſe of mercury. I am firmly of opinion, nevertheleſs, that all the hopes of recovery in this caſe depend entirely on calomel. The ſituation of the patient is truly deſperate, and might juſtify the adminiſtration of a hazardous medicine by a perſon of infinitely leſs abilities and experience, than him to whom I am writing. I ſhall expect to be favoured with an account of the event, and am, &c.

The gentleman entered immediately on the uſe of calomel, beginning with

the quantity of one grain in the day. For about a week it produced no ſenſible effect; but a diarrhea afterwards enſued, which, notwithſtanding the calomel was laid aſide, reſiſted the force of every remedy, and the patient died in ſix weeks. On opening the body, a tumor, filled with a ſteatomatous ſubſtance, was found at the bottom of the oeſophagus, extending almoſt over two thirds of its circumference.

CASE

CASE III.

Of the Tinnitus Aurium.

SIR,

WITHOUT doubt you acted judiciously in adviſing your patient's ears to be ſyringed, as ſoon as you was informed of his complaint; for though that operation, could not affect the cauſe of the diſorder, it had at leaſt ſome tendency to palliate the conſequences of it. An irregular, crackling noiſe in the ears, or ſometimes a dulneſs of hearing only, is no uncommon ſymptom in a catarrh, and in people who go to bed immediately after hard drinking. It is alſo frequently obſerved to precede the apoplexy, and ſome other diſorders of the head. None of all theſe cauſes or effects, however, is to be apprehended in the caſe of which you write. The troubleſome ſymptom whereof your patient complains, proceeds entirely from flatulence or acidity

in

in the ſtomach. I have been very often conſulted, in relation to it, by people who lead an inactive life, to whom it is extremely familiar. Though it be a complaint that naturally excites anxiety, it is never attended with any danger, ſo far as I have obſerved. The cure of it, however, is extremely difficult; for among a great number whom I have known affected with it, very few if any, have experienced a radical cure. I will not, therefore, take upon me to prognoſticate a total ceſſation of the complaint; neither is there reaſon to expect that it will ever be much mitigated by the uſe of ſtomachic medicines only. The bark, however, with chalybeates, and ſome of the aromatic bitters, ought certainly not to be omitted; though an active life, and eſpecially riding on horſeback, are what have been found moſt beneficial. Briſk and habitual exerciſe is of ſo great advantage in this complaint, and every other method of palliation ſo temporary and ineffectual without

without it, that, provided the patients ſubmit to proper injunctions reſpecting that article, I would not be ſolicitous for reſtricting them within ſuch a narrow ſphere of diet as I have ſometimes known rigidly preſcribed. Vegetable food undoubtedly aggravates the complaint; but the moſt alcaleſcent regimen that can be uſed with ſafety to the conſtitution, will not prevent the flatulence that ariſes from too ſlow digeſtion in a ſtomach whoſe fibres are relaxed. In a word, the effect of medicines is ſo inconſiderable in the Tinnitus Aurium, and a minute attention to diet attended likewiſe with ſo little advantage, that I would ſeek for the mitigation of it entirely in habitual exerciſe. I am, &c.

CASE

CASE IV.

Of a Diſorder from an imperforated Hymen.

Dr. SIR,

FROM the account with which you favour me, of the caſe of a young woman, I am ſtrongly of opinion that her complaint proceeds from an imperforated hymen. It bears ſo great reſemblance to a caſe which lately fell under my obſervation, that for your ſatisfaction I ſhall here give you a ſhort detail of it.

A young woman, between eighteen and nineteen, had been troubled, for upwards of three years, with tenſive pains about the region of the uterus and loins, which uſually returned every month, increaſing in ſeverity, and continuing two or three days at a time. At theſe periods ſhe complained of a difficulty in making water, which at firſt

was

was leſs conſiderable, but increaſed with the repetition of the diſorder. A weight and diſtention were alſo felt in the uterus, which though moſt violent at thoſe periods never entirely ſubſided, but remained more perceptible after each invaſion of the complaint. She was of a full habit of body, and had never had any catamenia.

A ſurgeon to whom ſhe had applied for relief, concluding from the moſt urgent ſymptom which attended the caſe, that her complaint was chiefly a ſtranguary, had plied her for ſeveral months, with medicines adapted to that malady; which, ſo far from affording any benefit, had even aggravated the diſorder. In this ſituation ſhe was brought by her friends to aſk my advice; when after conſidering all the circumſtances, I was of opinion that her complaint proceeded from a retention of the menſtrual blood, which I imagined had been diſcharged into the uterus at each invaſion of her diſorder;

diſorder; and not finding a paſſage, that it was at length accumulated in that organ in ſo great a quantity as to produce a continual uneaſineſs. I accordingly adviſed ſhe ſhould be examined by a midwife, and the reſult of the enquiry was, a confirmation of what I had ſuſpected. The operation was ſoon afterwards performed, and a quantity of blood diſcharged, partly coagulated, to the amount of almoſt four pounds. Since that time, I have been informed that the girl enjoys perfect health, and has her menſes regularly. Whether the caſe of your patient is not entirely of a ſimilar nature, I leave you to determine, and am, &c.

The iſſue of this caſe proved the ſame almoſt in every circumſtance, with what has been above related.

CASE

CASE V.

Of the Fluor Albus.

SIR,

I AM favoured with your very obliging commands, reſpecting Lady--- who I am ſorry to be informed labours at preſent under the Fluor Albus. I have not the honour to know her ladyſhip, though I can boaſt of the acquaintance and friendſhip of her worthy and truly reſpectable conſort; but my ignorance in what relates to her conſtitution, is abundantly ſupplied by your accurate account of her caſe.

I am glad to find that the diſorder is not the conſequence of a relaxed habit of body, but of an accident which, however inauſpicious to the hopes of the family, affords the proſpect of a more ſpeedy recovery to her ladyſhip, than could have been expected had the complaint

complaint not been owing to an abortion, but to a more ſlow and inſidious cauſe. As it is only two months ſince the accident happened, and ſhe was not much reduced by the evacuation that accompanied it, I flatter myſelf that in a ſhort time we ſhall be able to overcome the diſorder. The object we have in view in this caſe, is not to alter the habit of body, which appears to be exceeding good, but merely to reſtore the tone of the uterine veſſels; in effecting which purpoſe, her Ladyſhip's natural vigour, and temperance, will greatly avail us. Beſides, it would ſeem from the quantity of the daily diſcharge, that the dilatation of the veſſels is not very conſiderable.

You have very properly preſcribed the Peruvian bark; and as it produces no diſturbance in the ſtomach or bowels, the uſe of it ought certainly to be perſevered in a longer time. I need ſay nothing farther, than that I concur with you in the propriety of the regimen you have ordered;

ordered; viz. a light diet, a moderate glaſs of Claret or Port wine, Pyrmont water, and the uſe of daily exerciſe in the carriage. Should the complaint not ſoon yield to theſe means, recourſe to ſome of the Spaws will be adviſeable. I ſhall be anxious to hear of her ladyſhip's perfect recovery, and am, &c.

The lady obſerved the directions abovementioned for the ſpace of ſix or ſeven weeks, in which time her diſorder gradually abated, when the uſe of the hot wells at Briſtol completed her recovery.

CASE VI.

Of an Incontinence of Urine.

SIR,

LAST night I received your letter concerning the caſe of the gentleman who is troubled with an incontinence of Urine. From his being towards ſixty years of age, and the free courſe of life he has led, I am ſomewhat apprehenſive that the diſorder proceeds not entirely from a ſimple relaxation of the ſphincter of the bladder, but from a paralytic affection of that part. What inclines me the more to this opinion is, that you inform me he was ſeized about five years ago with a palſy of the tongue.

According to this idea of the diſorder, I ſhould not expect much advantage to reſult from the uſe of corroborating medicines, which are adapted to debility only. In patients under the years

years of puberty, and ſometimes even in adults, I have cured an incontinence of urine by means of the Peruvian bark, and in a few inſtances by milder aſtringents. But that theſe medicines promiſe no ſucceſs in the preſent caſe, ſeems too probable from their having been already uſed for the ſpace of ſix weeks, without any ſenſible benefit. I muſt own, therefore, I think it adviſeable that recourſe ſhould be had to more ſtimulating and nervous medicines; at leaſt that theſe be mixed with the aſtringents. Beſides nervous medicines, properly ſo called, perhaps the native balſams might be uſed in this caſe with advantage. The effect of warm, ſtimulating applications to the region of the pubes, ſhould at the ſame time not be neglected.

In the lateſt caſe I had occaſion to ſee of an incontinence of urine, I obſerved that the involuntary diſcharge became much leſs frequent during the time that

a boil, which accidentally broke forth upon the loins, was in a ſtate of inflammation. But whether any topical application, calculated to excite an irritation of that part, would produce the ſame effect, I have not had an opportunity to determine.*

If the common method ſhould prove ineffectual, the Bath waters ought undoubtedly to be tried. In the hope of our patient's recovery, I remain, &c.

The gentleman, whoſe caſe is the ſubject of the foregoing letter, recovered of his complaint in a few weeks, by warm medicines and the liberal uſe of wine, but in a twelvemonth afterwards he fell into a Hemiplegia, for the cure of which every method that could be deviſed proved totally ineffectual.

* This ſuggeſtion ſeems to correſpond with the practice recommended by Dr. Dickſon in the Medical Obſervations and Enquiries; namely, of applying bliſters to the Os Sacrum, in caſes of incontinence of urine.

CASE VII.

Of a Pain of the Stomach.

Dear SIR,

I HAVE had the pleaſure to receive yours by the hands of your ſon, of whom all my friends who have ſeen him already entertain the higheſt opinion. He has been requeſted to repeat his viſits at my houſe as often as is ſuitable with his convenience; and you will much oblige me by preſſing his acceptance of the invitation with your parental authority.

In reſpect to the gentleman of whom you write, there ſeems to be no doubt but the pain whereof he complains when his ſtomach is empty, proceeds from a bilious cauſe. His age, conſtitution, diet, and active life, all diſpoſe him to ſuch a temperament; beſides that he is ſubject to nidorus eructations,

and ſometimes bilious diarrhœas. You are certainly right in your opinion that his complaint will be more ſucceſsfully mitigated by following a proper regimen, than by any medicines whatever. There is not a better remedy for bilious diſorders, than the uſe of an aceſcent diet, which we always find to be indicated by nature when the ſtomach is the ſeat of the complaint. I join iſſue with you, however, in regard to the propriety of his occaſionally taking a little rhubarb, eſpecially when he is ſenſible of any oppreſſion upon the chylopoictic organs. For relieving the pain of his ſtomach, at other times, I would propoſe his taking ten or fifteen drops of the Elixir of Vitriol, in a diſh of camomile tea. I have only to remark farther, that, conſidering the tendency of the gentleman's conſtitution, he ought to be particularly careful of catching cold during the hot months of the year, which are now approaching; as ſuch an accident might produce an eryſipelas, with which

you

you inform me he was ſeized laſt ſummer. An excurſion to Scarborough, I am of opinion, would be attended with much benefit to his health. I always am, &c.

CASE VIII.

Of the method of preventing an Ague.

SIR,

I HAVE been favoured with yours, and would have anſwered it ſooner had I not been at Bath when it came to hand, from which place I arrived only laſt night. I hope, however, that the return of the intermitting fever, of which you continue to be apprehenſive ſince you was ſeized with it a few years ago, has not precluded the propriety of communicating to you my ſentiments ſo late, in regard to its prevention.

When you was formerly attacked with that diſorder, I believe you learned

from experience the neceſſity of obſerving a very accurate regimen. I do not mean, however, that you ought, at this time, ſtrictly to follow the rules which were then preſcribed. Your caſe at preſent is greatly different from that of a convaleſcent, and demands, no doubt, a more free indulgence in point of living.

You inform me that the place where you now reſide is in a damp ſituation, and that ſeveral perſons in your neighbourhood have lately been ſeized with the ague, which likewiſe in general proves very obſtinate. Theſe, I own, are circumſtances which juſtify ſome degree of apprehenſion; nor ought they, moſt certainly, to be diſregarded. It is therefore my opinion that, during the preſent diſpoſition of the air, and the prevalence of eaſterly winds, you ſhould remove to a drier ſituation. Should you make an excurſion to Bath, and drink the waters, I am perſuaded your conſtitution would be a good deal fortified againſt the invaſion of the diſorder.

If

If you ſhould not acquieſce in the propoſal of removing, it will then be proper that you follow the moſt adviſeable rules which can be practiſed at home for anſwering the ſame end. Beſides temperance in reſpect of quantity, I would therefore recommend to you to uſe a diet chiefly of the ſolid kind. The moſt proper drink would be Pyrmont water, with which you may be ſupplied from your neighbouring town; and after every meal, you ought to take three or four glaſſes of good Port wine. As to exerciſe, you ſhould ride eight or ten miles at leaſt every day on horſeback: and I would alſo adviſe you to make frequent uſe of the fleſh-bruſh at night, eſpecially when the weather is moiſt; at which time, likewiſe, you ought to keep good fires in your apartments.

If I remember rightly, you was heartily tired of the bark in your laſt illneſs, notwithſtanding which I muſt take the liberty

liberty of recommending the occaſional uſe of it in your preſent diſpoſition. You can, perhaps, comply the more readily with this injunction, as it may now be ſufficient that you take it in tincture, which is the lighteſt form of preſcribing it. Let me adviſe you to the uſe of the following, as an excellent prophylactic in your caſe.

R Cort. Peruvian. craſſe pulveriſat. unc. duas rad. ſerpentar. virgin. drachmas duas. Spir. vin. Gallic. lib. duas. Infunde per quatuor vel ſex dies, & cola.

Of this tincture I would have you take a glaſs every morning, when either the weather is damp, or you are ſenſible of any tendency to chilline ſs. If the mixture of the ſnake-root ſhould render it too hot in the mouth, it may be qualified by the addition of a ſpoonful of water.

During

During ſuch a ſtate of the weather as is favourable to the production of agues, it will be proper to avoid indigeſtion and coſtiveneſs, as much as poſſible. On this account, a vomit of camomile-tea, or a ſmall doſe of ſome ſtomachic purgative, may be taken occaſionally. A ſpoonful either of the tincture of rhubarb, or elixir ſacrum, will anſwer the purpoſe; and it may be uſed with moſt advantage at bed-time. I have nothing more to add, than that I ſhall be anxious to hear of your enjoying the continuance of a good ſtate of health, and that I am, &c.

CASE

CASE IX.

Of an Obſtruction of the Menſes.

SIR,

I AM not ſatisfied that the vomiting, and head-ach, of which your patient, Miſs---- complains, is owing to the cauſe ſo confidently aſcribed by her relations; namely, her having drank ſome diſhes of bad tea at the---aſſembly.

In the firſt place, it would appear, that her mother and two ſiſters, beſides ſeveral other ladies, partook of the ſame tea, and probably in much the ſame quantity, without experiencing any bad effect. I am very ready to make an allowance for the difference of conſtitutions, and the peculiar circumſtances of individuals, as practice every day affords ſubject for obſervations of that kind; but at the ſame time we ought to be cautious of

of imputing to any particular cauſe, what is more probably the conſequence of another, eſpecially in caſes where the method of cure muſt be greatly varied by that determination. In judging of the procatarctic cauſe of a diſeaſe, where it ſeems to be equivocal, I have always made it a rule to be guided in my opinion, by a view of the natural conformity of the ſuppoſed cauſe to the circumſtances of the conſtitution, and the effects produced in it: nor do I know by what other criterion we can rationally decide on the ſubject. For it ſo often happens in phyſic, that two or more cauſes apparently coincide, to which a diſeaſe may be referred, that without ſuch an examination of their reſpective claims to ſuperiority, our ideas of the nature of diſeaſes, as depending on particular cauſes, muſt be for ever involved in obſcurity.

I hope you will excuſe me for this digreſſion, into which I have been led from

from a zeal for our patient's recovery, and the deſire of juſtifying to her relations the means we ſhall preſcribe for that purpoſe.

It appears from your repreſentation of the caſe of this young lady, that her Menſes have been greatly obſtructed for three months paſt. A head-ache, therefore, and ſickneſs at the ſtomach, are no unuſual ſymptoms in that ſituation; and though they ſeem not to have ſupervened till the night of the aſſembly, there is the ſtrongeſt reaſon for admitting them to be the conſequence of a diſorder which is always attended with a diſpoſition to produce ſuch effects.

In what I have above advanced, towards aſcertaining the genuine nature of Miſs ----'s complaint, I have reſted the argument chiefly on the inſufficiency of the cauſe alledged by her relations, and the probability of its being ultimately derived from a more remote origin. But

may

may it not be farther urged in refutation of their opinion, that had the diſorder been occaſioned merely by drinking bad tea, why ſhould it continue for the ſpace of almoſt a fortnight? we ſeldom find that any irritation ſo long ſurvives the diſcharge of the cauſe which produced it.

I am therefore of opinion that the young lady's complaint proceeds originally from an obſtruction of the Menſes, and that the cure of it is not to be attempted by perſevering any longer in the uſe of vomits, which, though frequently of advantage in removing that diſorder, when the indication is to communicate a greater impulſe to the fluids, might prove of dangerous conſequence in a caſe where the patient is ſo plethoric as ſhe is repreſented to be. The firſt ſtep we ought to take is bleeding, in order to diminiſh the fulneſs of the veſſels; and I think it would be proper to draw a few ounces from the arm, according to the practice

of

of Riverius, previous to opening a vein in the foot. The diſorder may ſoon, perhaps, be removed by this operation; or if it ſhould continue a longer time, I make no doubt of its being completely cured by proſecuting the other common methods of cure. The medicines which promiſe to be moſt beneficial in the preſent caſe are, lenitive cathartics, and the Pilulæ Rufi, to which two or three grains of calomel may ſometimes be added. The tincture helleb. nig. is much uſed by my learned friend Dr. Mead, for obſtructions in ſanguine conſtitutions; but it ſeems to me to be more ſucceſsful in promoting the firſt menſtruation in young girls when that is attended with difficulty, than in removing future obſtructions. I entertain the hope of being ſoon informed that the young lady is reſtored to perfect health, and am, &c.

P. S. I have not mentioned any topical applications, as it is probable

ble that the uſe of the Pediluvia has already been adviſed, which I think extremely proper. Even the Semicupium might be uſed with great advantage. As to any other, if you except cupping-glaſſes, they ſeem to me unneceſſary.

CASE X.

Of a Hypochondriac Complaint.

Dear SIR,

YOUR favour of Tueſday laſt, containing the caſe of a reverend gentleman, I have received; and at the ſame time, great ſatisfaction from the manner in which you propoſe treating it. I am ſo much precluded from offering any thing new on the ſubject, that to avoid the charge of inattention, I ſhall briefly recapitulate the circumſtances you have mentioned.

It appears, then, that ſince the death of his wife, which happened a bout five months ago, the clergyman, who has been long accuſtomed to a ſedentary life, has too much abandoned himſelf to ſolitude and melancholy reflexions. That his appetite is almoſt entirely gone, his digeſtion greatly impaired, his ſleep is not only ſhort, but extremely confuſed,

he

he has become ſubject to a troubleſome ſalivation, a vertigo ſeizes him on the ſmalleſt motion to ſtoop, he complains of inceſſant borborygmi, obſtinate coſtiveneſs, and palpitations in various parts of the body. He has alſo frequently a diſpoſition to fainting, attended with a flatulent oppreſſion of the ſtomach.

All theſe ſymptoms you very juſtly conſider as the conſequences of a ſedentary life, and exceſſive anxiety. If the gentleman can be diverted, by company and amuſements, from ruminating on the cauſe of his affliction, and can be induced to ride much on horſeback, no doubt need be entertained of his recovery; but without his compliance in theſe points, I am afraid all our endeavours will prove vain. The utmoſt that can be effected by medicine, in his caſe, is to alleviate the diſpoſition to fainting by the occaſional uſe of ſome cordial and carminative ſtomachic; and to prevent coſtiveneſs by lenitives. Bitters alſo, for

exciting his appetite, are certainly highly proper; and I approve of your caution in diſſuading him from the uſe of laudanum. For though it might afford ſome temporary repoſe, it would increaſe the general relaxation. When the tone of his bowels is reſtored by exerciſe and tranquillity of mind, his ſleep will return in its natural courſe; nor can it be otherwiſe ſollicited at preſent, than by ſuch means as would counteract the indications of cure. If he were a little more reconciled to the pleaſures of ſociety, a journey to Bath would certainly be adviſeable in his caſe. I ſincerely wiſh his recovery; and in the agreeable expectation of ſeeing you ſoon in town, I remain, &c.

The gentleman occaſionally uſed the palliative remedies, mentioned in the above letter, and undertook a long journey on horſeback, by which he was perfectly cured.

CASE

CASE XI.

Of the Means of Impregnation.

MADAM,

I AM honoured with your ladyſhip's obliging commands, and wiſh it were in the power of medicine to afford the ſatisfaction you deſire. But in reality, nothing has baffled the efforts of our profeſſion more than an enquiry into the means by which impregnation may certainly be obtained. It appears to be one of the ſecrets of nature which we never can thoroughly inveſtigate, though many have pretended to an infallible medicine for the purpoſe. The utmoſt degree of knowledge at which we have arrived in this point, is to diſcover that there are certain diſorders of the womb, which prove unfavourable to conception; but we are ſtill at a loſs to determine the particular cauſe of barreneſs, when no ſymptoms countenance the pre-

ſumption of a morbid ſtate of that organ. To me, there ſeems to be ſtrong reaſon for thinking, that the capacity of bearing children does not depend ſolely on a ſound condition of the womb, as in all women, the time of conception is generally irregular and uncertain.

Notwithſtanding the obſcurity in which this ſubject is involved, I am ſatisfied, from repeated obſervation, that the cold bath, and chalybeate waters are ſometimes beneficial for producing pregnancy; and I ſee no improprity in your ladyſhip's making trial of both, though, excluſive of that purpoſe, the ſtate of your health ſeems not to require the uſe of either.

As it is now ſummer, I would therefore adviſe your ladyſhip to have recourſe to the cold bath every morning during the hot ſeaſon, except at the time of the monthly periods, when you may refrain from it. An excellent bath was built by his lordſhip's father, which I ſuppoſe is

ſtill

ſtill in repair. The Bath waters you can afterwards make uſe of in the winter.

Whether the aſſiſtance of theſe means ſhould be immediately ſucceſsful in producing a prolific effect, or not, your ladyſhip's youth, and good ſtate of health, afford the ſtrongeſt preſumption to hope that you will yet be the happy mother of a numerous offspring. I beg leave to offer my moſt reſpectful compliments to his lordſhip, and lady ——.

I have the honour to be, &c.

CASE XII.

Of ſtopping an Iſſue.

SIR,

AT your deſire, Dr. Clephane and I have conſulted together on the queſtion, whether lord ——— may with ſafety cloſe up the iſſue between his ſhoulders; and we concur in opinion, that the execution of ſuch a project might be attended with great danger.

The iſſue, you inform us, was firſt opened about twenty-three years ago, with the view of alleviating a rheumatic complaint, and preſerving his lordſhip's health, who is much inclined to corpulency. During the whole time, it has diſcharged pretty plentifully, and is at preſent exceedingly troubleſome on account of the hot weather.

It would have afforded us both great pleaſure had the conſideration of theſe circumſtances been ſufficient to induce our judgement to an acquieſcence with his lordſhip's inclination; but the truth is, we cannot think ourſelves authoriſed to determine in favour of that ſide. Our opinion is founded on the following reaſons.

Though his lordſhip is now about ſixty-ſeven years of age, his corpulency is not in the leaſt diminiſhed, but remains nearly in the ſame ſtate as at the time when the iſſue was opened. If, therefore, my lord found benefit from the iſſue in his rheumatic diſorder, there would be reaſon for apprehending a return of his complaint when that drain no longer exiſted; and ſhould ſuch prove the caſe at the preſent period, when his lordſhip is conſiderably more advanced in years, it is probable that the attack of the rheumatiſm would now be more ſevere than formerly. But

But independent of any regard to the return of the rheumatiſm, we have often obſerved fatal effects follow the ſtoppage of an evacuation to which perſons had been long accuſtomed. Fevers, inflammations, obſtructions, diſorders of various kinds have been the conſequence. And it is difficult to ſay what might not be the reſult of the intended expedient in his lordſhip's caſe, conſidering that he is of a full habit of body, and the iſſue has always diſcharged copiouſly.

For theſe reaſons we are of opinion that his lordſhip ought not to cloſe up his iſſue, notwithſtanding the uneaſineſs which at preſent he experiences from it.

We remain, &c.

The noble lord ſtopped the iſſue contrary to the advice we had given. From that time he increaſed greatly in corpulency, and died of a putrid fever in a few months after.

CASE

CASE XIII.

Of wandering Pains.

SIR,

FROM peruſing the caſe with which your excellency has favoured me, drawn up by the ſurgeon of the regiment, I am of opinion that the wandering pains of which you complain are not of the rheumatic, but arthritic kind; and I am led to this idea not only from your manner of life, and the hereditary right entailed on you, but alſo from the circumſtances which preceded your diſorder.

I remember to have been informed, that three years ago, and I do not think your excellency's conſtitution is in the leaſt impaired ſince that time, you reſiſted a rheumatiſm which, more or leſs, ſeized the greateſt part of the troops, officers as well as private men, who were ſtationed

ſtationed with you in the camp. If this was the caſe when you lived in a marſhy ſituation, can it be thought that you ſhould be more liable to an invaſion of that diſorder at preſent; ſince the place of your reſidence is remarkably dry and healthy, and you have enjoyed, as I underſtand, the fineſt ſeaſon that has been known for ſome years. The unuſual flatulence in your ſtomach, and coſtiveneſs, which preceded the pains, afford additional preſumption that your diſorder is an irregular gout.

Let me therefore, earneſtly diſſuade your excellency from large bleeding, to which it ſeems you was adviſed. For however ſuitable that method of cure might be to a rheumatiſm of the genuine inflammatory kind, allow me to aſſure you, that it would prove extremely prejudicial in your caſe. Inſtead of that evacuation, which ought always to be very cautiouſly uſed in arthritic diſorders, I would recommend occaſional recourſe

to

to the ſacred elixir, or tincture, taken in ſuch a quantity as to prevent coſtiveneſs. A ſpoonful of either, at bed-time, will probably anſwer the purpoſe. As the pains are not fixed, it would likewiſe be proper that you bathe your feet pretty frequently, at night, in warm water, in order to ſollicit a derivation to thoſe parts which are the natural ſeat of the diſeaſe. I ſhall only add, that upon a remiſſion of the complaint, your excellency ſhould take a journey to Bath.

In regard to the ſerjeant who is frequently troubled with convulſions ſince he was ſeized with the locked jaw in the Weſt Indies, I am not ſo clearly informed of the hiſtory of his caſe, as to be able to give a deciſive opinion. I muſt therefore deſire that your excellency will order the ſurgeon to ſend me a particular account of the ſuppoſed cauſe of the man's former complaint, and the manner in which it was treated, if theſe circumſtances be known. I have the honour to be, &c.

CASE

CASE XIV.

Of a Tertian Fever.

MADAM,

I HAVE this moment received your ladyſhip's letter reſpecting the caſe of the two young gentlemen your ſons; and before I proceed any farther, let me intreat your ladyſhip to entertain no apprehenſions on their account.

By the hiſtory of maſter Harry's caſe, with which I am furniſhed, it appears, that about three weeks ago he was ſeized with a regular tertian fever; and that after ſuſtaining five fits, being twice vomited, and his belly opened with a laxative, the bark was adminiſtered to him, in a full intermiſſion of the diſeaſe, the return of which has been entirely prevented by that medicine. The ſymptom that now alarms your ladyſhip, is, it ſeems, a lightneſs of his head, and a

ſort

ſort of inſipiency, which you aſcribe to his having taken the bark too early. Permit me to aſſure your ladyſhip, that the bark could not produce any bad effect, in the ſituation he is deſcribed to have been in at the time of his taking it. The ſymptom above mentioned is nothing more than the conſequence of his being much reduced by the fever, ſupervening ſo ſoon after the hooping cough. It will gradually abate as he recovers ſtrength. For which purpoſe a nouriſhing diet, and a glaſs or two of red wine after meals, with moderate exerciſe in a carriage, as ſoon as he can bear it, muſt be preſcribed to him. Nay, I will venture to recommend half a drachm or two ſcruples of the bark to be given to him once or twice every day in ſome light form, ſuch as the decoction, both for preventing the return of the ague, and promoting the recovery of his ſtrength. Upon the whole, yonr ladyſhip may remain perfectly ſatisfied, not only in reſpect to the

propriety

propriety of the manner in which he has been treated, but the ſafety of his preſent ſituation.

With reſpect to his elder brother, the diſorder with which he is ſeized will, in all probability, turn out to be of the ſame kind; but being ſtronger than maſter Harry, there is no doubt of his ſuffering leſs from the diſeaſe. I hope, however, I need not recommend to your ladyſhip, to allow the bark to be given him as ſoon as the attending ſurgeon thinks proper; on whoſe ſkill, I am certain from his judicious treatment of the former patient, you may perfectly rely.

Your ladyſhip is unqueſtionably right in your reſolution of not carrying the other children at preſent to where you have taken up your reſidence, as the ague is juſt now ſo prevalent in that part of the country. It would even be proper that your ladyſhip and the young gentlemen ſhould remove to another air

as

as ſoon as poſſible, both for the preſervation of your own health, and the reſtoration of theirs.

I have the honour to be, &c.

CASE XV.

Of the ſame.

MADAM,

FROM your ladyſhip's laſt letter, which is juſt now come by expreſs, and the incloſed caſe from the ſurgeon, I am ſorry to underſtand that maſter George's diſorder turns out to be a continual fever. That it was not originally of that nature I am pretty confident, both from the ſimilarity which it bore, at the beginning, to that with which his brother had been ſeized, and the frequency of agues at preſent in your ladyſhip's neighbourhood. I ſuſpect that it muſt have been occaſioned by too hot a regimen, which the women have preſcribed, while the ſurgeon lay under the imputation of miſmanagement in the

caſe of maſter Harry. As I do not queſtion, however, but before this time your ladyſhip is ſatisfied of the rectitude of his conduct, I hope he is now reinſtated in the direction; and that by bleeding, if found neceſſary, and ſome gentle purge, he has already brought the fever to an intermiſſion. Should that not yet have happened, your ladyſhip's communicating to him this letter will acquaint him with my ſentiments concerning the method of cure which is to be purſued, in conſequence of ſuch an idea of the diſeaſe. Beſides one vomit at leaſt, I ſhould approve of giving the ſaline draughts three or four times a day, before the bark is adminiſtered.

So much for the method of cure in general. With reſpect to any particular ſymptom that may ariſe, the treatment of it muſt be left entirely to the ſurgeon's own diſcretion and judgment.

At

At a time when the air in your part of the country is ſo much diſpoſed to produce agues, it would be highly proper that your ladyſhip ſhould make uſe of the tincture which I once recommended to you for preventing that diſorder.*

I have the honour to be, &c.

* This is probably the ſame tincture that is mentioned in Caſe viii.

CASE XVI.

Of Obſtructions of the Lungs.

SIR,

I HAVE received your very diſtinct account of the ſituation of young lord ----, who has lately had the meaſles, and is now troubled with a cough and difficulty of breathing. There is too much ground for concluding that obſtructions are formed in his lungs; and it would appear, from the ſeat of the obtuſe pain which he feels upon coughing, that the diſorder is chiefly in the right lobe.

It is unneceſſary to obſerve, that complaints of this kind are always attended with great danger, and frequently terminate in a fatal event. It gives me pleaſure, however, to find in this caſe, that our patient remains hitherto free from the ſymptoms which accompany

pany an advanced ſtage of the diſeaſe. His fever is not very conſiderable, his cough not very harraſſing, he has no unuſual ſweats, his appetite is pretty good, and his habit of body not much reduced by the preceding diſorder. All theſe circumſtances afford room for a favourable prognoſtication.

Our endeavours are to be directed towards preventing an inflammation of the tubercles, and procuring a reſolution of them. In proſecuting the firſt of theſe indications, it is not improbable but bleeding in ſmall quantity may be requiſite; and of that you will determine by the degree of feveriſhneſs, and difficulty of reſpiration.

For promoting the reſolution of the obſtructions, I would adviſe the uſe of the following remedy.

R. Mellis deſpumat. unc. duas, ſperm. cœti unc. unam, ſal. ammoniac. crud. drachmas tres, m. f. electuarium, cujus capiat q. n. m. bis terve in die.

If the fever ſhould be any thing conſiderable, two drachms of nitre might be added to the electuary.

As the ſeat of the obſtruction is pointed out by a pain in the right lobe of the lungs, I would recommend the putting a ſeton in the right ſide, as near as poſſible to the part affected. This expedient is of great advantage in making a derivation, and will not only aſſiſt greatly in reſolving the obſtructions, but conduce to prevent their inflammation.

I am anticipated in adviſing a milk diet, and riding on horſeback, which he muſt continue to uſe according to your direction. I think it abſolutely proper, however, that his lordſhip be ſent immediately to Briſtol, for the benefit of the waters; by the uſe of which, and the other means preſcribed, I entertain the greateſt hopes of his ſpeedy and perfect recovery. I am, &c.

CASE

CASE XVII.

Of the Hooping-Cough.

SIR,

AT the desire of the duke of----who is informed that the hooping-cough is just now very frequent in the neighbourhood of----where his grace's children reside, I take the freedom of communicating to you a few thoughts on the cure of that disorder, which I hope will not be unacceptable.

I have long been induced to consider the hooping-cough as a mixed disease, in which not only the lungs, but the stomach are greatly affected, and where regard must be had to both these objects, in drawing the indications of cure. The discharge of the phlegmatic humours is what in this case we ought always to have principally in view; as being the material cause of the cough, and the

foundation of the viſceral obſtuctions which frequently ſucceed the diſeaſe. Having determined, therefore, whether bleeding be neceſſary or not, in which point our judgment is to be guided by an attention to the ſtate of the pulſe, the difficulty of reſpiration, and the patient's habit in regard to plethora; an emetic ought to be given, and repeated occaſionally during the cure, for the purpoſe of relieving the ſtomach and breaſt from the load with which they are oppreſſed. Alternately with emetics, cathartics ought alſo to be uſed, in order to cleanſe the inteſtinal canal from the viſcidities lodged in it, and make a derivation of the humours from the ſuperior parts. The phyſic I generally uſe for this purpoſe is rhubarb, to which, for the moſt part, I add two or three grains of calomel.

When the violence of the diſorder is abated by theſe means, the medicines I have always found moſt ſucceſsful in performing a radical cure, are the Peruvian bark, and bitters. While

While theſe medicines are uſed, we muſt palliate the cough when violent, as in other caſes, by means of lin&tures, opiates, Pediluvia, and bliſters, if theſe are judged neceſſary, though otherwiſe they ought to be avoided.

The diet we preſcribe in this caſe is always of the lighteſt kind; ſuch as panado, boiled currants and barley, turnips, &c.

Should his grace's children be ſeized with the hooping-cough in the country, they will fall under your care; and I perſuade myſelf that by following the above general method of cure, as your own judgment directs, you will find the practice ſucceſsful. I am, &c.

P. S. It is proper to inform you, that the hooping-cough which has been endemic in town for ſome weeks, requires more copious bleeding, than

than I have known to be neceſſary in ſeveral preceding ſeaſons. This is probably owing to the long duration of the froſt. Whether the caſe be the ſame in your part of the country, I know not; but the fact deſerves to be attended to.

CASE

CASE XVIII.

Of a ſtomachic Complaint.

My Lord Bishop,

I HAVE received your lordſhip's letter, reciting the hiſtory of your complaint, and at the ſame time your ſuſpicion that it is of a dangerous nature. Your lordſhip informs me that you was lately ſeized with a ſevere cold, which confined you to the houſe for three weeks, and obliged you to uſe a low diet. That your cough is now almoſt entirely gone; but that you have a difficulty of breathing, and frequently feel a pain about the bottom of your breaſt, as you do likewiſe acroſs the upper part of your belly.

Believe me, my Lord, the diſorder of which you complain is not the Phthiſis Pulmonalis, whereof you ſeem ſo very apprehenſive, but merely a flatulent pain

pain of the ſtomach and bowels, which I impute to the confinement and low diet, to which your lordſhip ſubmitted in your late indiſpoſition. Nothing is more common than for ſuch complaints to ſucceed, where the ſtomach has been relaxed by an abſtinence from ſolid food, and digeſtion impaired from want of exerciſe.

Let me therefore adviſe your lordſhip to lay aſide your balſamic electuaries, and pectoral decoctions, as what are of no advantage in your caſe. Inſtead of affording benefit, they are abſolutely prejudicial, by increaſing the relaxation. The beſt medicines for your lordſhip's diſorder will be the ſacred tincture, taken in ſuch a quantity as to keep the belly open; with the uſe of the ſtomachic tincture which you formerly experienced ſo ſerviceable. Along with theſe, you ought to ride much on horſeback for ſome time. If the viſitation of the dioceſe is not yet over, your lordſhip

ſhip will probably be ſenſible of benefit from that journey. I could wiſh that the archdeacon had examined more accurately into the ſtate of the gentleman whom he had ſeen at ----, and who labours under a Phthiſis Pulmonalis. Had he done ſo, he may be aſſured he would have found the ſymptoms very different from thoſe which accompany your lordſhip's caſe. By the time that you uſually come to town, my lord, I hope to ſee you in perfect health. I have the honour to be, &c.

CASE

CASE XIX.

Of preventing a Colic.

SIR,

I HAVE conſidered your caſe, reſpecting a diſpoſition to the colic, with which, it appears, you have of late been greatly afflicted. From the idea I conceive of your conſtitution, and likewiſe from the various cauſes which give riſe to your diſorder, there is the ſtrongeſt reaſon to conclude that your colic is of the flatulent kind. In order to prevent it, therefore, you ought to avoid, as much as poſſible, all ſorts of food which you find from experience excite uneaſineſs in your bowels. The farinaceous and leguminous ſubſtances are particularly diſpoſed to produce that effect, on which account you ought to be cautious of uſing them in great quantity in your diet; or if you do indulge yourſelf, you ſhould correct them by taking

taking ſufficiently of papper along with them. The liberal uſe of pepper, however, and indeed of all other ſpices, is attended with this inconvenience, that they naturally diſpoſe to coſtiveneſs, which is alſo a fruitful ſource of your complaint, and ought particularly to be guarded againſt. What is ſaid of flatulent food is to be underſtood likewiſe of malt liquors, not properly fermented. Whatever occaſions indigeſtion, or ſpaſmodic affections of the bowels, ſuch as the paſſions of the mind, much exerciſe immediately after a hearty meal, wet feet, &c. are frequently productive of the flatulent colic, and demand your attention.

Your chief care ought to be, to prevent coſtiveneſs, which not only tends to produce your complaint, but alſo to ſupport and increaſe it. For anſwering this intention, I would recommend to you the occaſional uſe of the ſacred tincture; of which you may take a ſpoonful at bed-time, if you find that quantity to have

have ſufficient effect; if otherwiſe, enlarge the doſe.

But the moſt effectual means of preventing your colic, is by ſtrengthening the bowels; to which nothing ſo much conduces as daily exerciſe on horſeback. Let me therefore adviſe you to renounce the ſedentary habit that has occaſioned your complaint, and return to a more active kind of life. I could inſure you of great benefit likewiſe from the uſe of Bath waters. Be perſuaded to follow theſe rules, and I doubt not of your entirely overcoming the diſorder.

I am, &c.

CASE

CASE XX.

Of an immoderate Flux of the Menſes.

SIR,

I AM favoured with your account of lady ----, who for theſe two months paſt has been ſubject to an immoderate flux of the Menſes, which have appeared four times in the courſe of that interval, and in a quantity always nearly equal to what was wont to be diſcharged at the regular periods. It is not apparent, it ſeems, that her ladyſhip was in a more plethoric habit of body at the invaſion of this complaint, than ſhe had formerly been; and you rightly remark, that the grief ſhe has ſuffered by the death of her mother, affords preſumption in favour of the probability of this obſervation. You mention, likewiſe, that no ſenſible cauſe has exiſted from which we can imagine the diſorder to proceed from a particular

relaxation of the uterus. I very readily join you in opinion reſpecting both the circumſtances you have ſpecified, which I would abſolve from any ſhare, either principal or acceſſary, in producing the complaint. It appears to me that her ladyſhip's diſorder is entirely owing to an irritable ſtate of body, occaſioned by the exceſſive grief ſhe has indulged for her amiable mother, who died about four months ago. Admitting ſuch to be the cauſe, the indication of cure evidently is, to allay the irritability, which, having its ſource in one of the moſt intractable paſſions of the mind, I am afraid is above our controul. It is to be hoped, however, that time, the great phyſician of affliction, will ſhortly bring her ladyſhip relief; and till that happen, we muſt be ſatisfied with endeavouring to palliate the complaint.

When the evacuation, therefore, is immoderate, or returns too frequently, it will be proper to have recourſe to opiates,

ates, which afford the moſt effectual remedy in caſes of irritation. Fifteen drops of laudanum, or more, as you find neceſſary, may be given at night in an antihyſteric julep, and repeated occaſionally. During the continuance of the diſcharge, her ladyſhip ought to lye in an horizontal poſture, and be kept, as much as poſſible, from perturbation of every kind.

In the intervals of the complaint, her ladyſhip muſt uſe daily exerciſe, either in the carriage or on horſeback. I would adviſe that his lordſhip ſhould contrive ſome agreeable journey, in order to amuſe her. In fact, it is on the return of her ſerenity of mind, and uſual chearfulneſs, that the radical cure of her ladyſhip's diſorder, in my opinion, depends; and I entertain not the ſmalleſt doubt of her perfect recovery as ſoon as her grief is diſſipated; provided that the violence and duration of that paſſion does not affect her conſtitution ſo

much as to render her ſuſceptible afterwards of the ſlighteſt cauſe of irritation. That this may not be the caſe, I ardently hope; and am, &c.

CASE XXI.

Of a Diſorder of the Liver.

SIR,

I Underſtand from your repreſentation, that Mrs. ----- was firſt ſeized with her complaint about the time when her monthly courſes ceaſed, which happened a year ago. She is ſenſible of a little weight in the right hypochondrium, her complexion is become darker than uſual, ſhe is generally coſtive, and perceives ſomewhat of a bitteriſh taſte in her mouth. I am of opinion, that her diſorder is a ſchirrous obſtruction in the liver, and owes its origin to the ſtoppage of the Menſes, which is an accident that often

often lays the foundation of various diſeaſes in women of a full habit of body, as ſhe appears to be.

Reſpecting the probable iſſue of her complaint, of which ſhe is deſirous to be informed, pleaſe to let her know, that though I will not flatter her with ſanguine hopes of her being perfectly cured of her diſorder, yet I am firmly perſuaded, that under the influence of a proper regimen, it will never make any progreſs to a fatal effect; and ſhe may live to a great age, notwithſtanding the continuance of it.

It is ſo far fortunate in her caſe, that the palliative and radical method of cure coincide in ſeveral circumſtances. You acted judiciouſly in adviſing venæſection; and, as ſhe is of a plethoric diſpoſition, it may be proper to repeat the operation occaſionally hereafter. I would recommend that ſhe ſhould take, twice a day, half a pint of a decoction of the

opening roots; and to obviate coſtiveneſs, as well as gently aſſiſt the reſolution of the tumour, fifteen grains, or a ſcruple, of the following pills every other night, or as often as is requiſite.

R. Pulv. rhei.
ſapon. venet. ana, drachmas duas, ſyr. violar. q. s. f. maſſa pilularis, formand. in pl. gr. v.

With regard to diet, ſhe ought to avoid all meats that are difficult of digeſtion; and, inſtead of malt liquor for drink, I would recommend to her the juice of a lemon, mixed with a quart of water, and ſweetened with ſugar. Exerciſe on horſeback will be highly advantageous; and if a radical cure can be effected, it is my opinion that it would be greatly promoted by the uſe of Bath waters, of which ſhe certainly ought to make trial. I have known them prove ſerviceable in ſuch caſes, even when the diſorder was of longer ſtanding.

As

As to the ſhifting pain in the upper part of her belly, it has no immediate connexion with the other complaint, and proceeds from flatulence occaſioned by a deficiency of bile in the inteſtines. I have nothing farther to add, but that I am, &c.

CASE XXII.

Of Obſtructions of the Menſes, and other Complaints.

SIR,

THE account with which you favour me, of the caſe of miſs ----, contains chiefly the following particulars. That during five months paſt, her Menſes have appeared in leſs quantity, and are more irregular in their periods than uſual. That ſhe is troubled with a cough and difficulty of breathing, and ſpits up a thin frothy matter in a conſiderable quantity. She is alſo very much ſubject to wind in her ſtomach; complains frequently of a pain in the back part of her head, and a coldneſs of her feet and hands. The tooth-ach likewiſe greatly moleſts her; and from a fevere pain ſhe ſometimes feels in the left kidney, and along the courſe of the ureter, ſhe is judged not to be free from

a ſtone in theſe parts. The lady is about twenty-four years of age, of a full but flaccid habit of body.

The ſymptoms attending this caſe, however various they appear, are in my opinion, entirely of the hyſterical kind.

That which may be reckoned of the moſt doubtful nature, is the pain of the kidney and ureter; and yet that it proceeds not from any ſtone, but is really a ſymptom of the hyſteric diſeaſe, is evident to me from a circumſtance you have mentioned in the narration, and of which I am much pleaſed that you have taken notice, as it affords room for confirming my idea of the nature of that complaint. The circumſtance I allude to is, that you obſerved the pain of the kidney and ureter was exaſperated by an injection. This would not have been the conſequence, had there really been a ſtone in theſe parts. You may therefore deſire the lady, on my authority,

thority, to be under no apprehenſion of that diſeaſe, the thought of which ſo much alarms her.

I do not learn from the account you have ſent me, in what order the different complaints appeared; but it is of no moment in the method of cure, whether the obſtruction of the Menſes was antecedent or poſterior to the other ſymptoms, as the flaccid conſtitution of the patient renders the ſame medicine adviſeable in the former which is chiefly uſeful for removing the other complaints. What I would recommend to the lady is, to take a glaſs of the following tincture every day at eleven o'clock in the forenoon and five in the afternoon; and four of the pills every night.

R. Rad. gentian. unciam unam, cort. aurantior. uncias duas, ſummit. centaur. min. ſemunciam, ſem. fœnicul. dulc. drachmas duas, vini Liſbonenſ. lib. duas.

duas. Infunde per quatuor ſeu ſex dies, & colaturæ adde vin. chalybeat. uncias octo.

R. Extract. glycyrrhiza, gum. ammoniac. myrrh. aloes ſocotrin. ana, drachmam unam, elix. proprietat. q. s. f. maſſa pilularis, ex cujus unaquaque drach. formentur pil. xii.

Along with the medicinal courſe, the lady ought to uſe exerciſe on horſe-back, from which ſhe may be aſſured of reaping conſiderable advantage. Should the cough not abate by theſe remedies, pleaſe to adviſe me of it; as in that caſe, it would require a more particular treatment, independent of the general indications of cure, drawn from the aſſemblage of all the ſymptoms. But I entertain no doubt of its yielding to the medicines preſcribed. I am, &c.

Soon

Soon after beginning the uſe of theſe medicines the Catamenia returned to their uſual courſe, and in leſs than three months all the ſymptoms diſappeared.

CASE XXIII.

Of a Palſy of the left Arm.

SIR,

FROM the hiſtory of this caſe, I am fully convinced that the palſy with which Sir ---- is ſeized in his left arm, is chiefly the conſequence of a retroceſſion of the eruption, to which it ſeems he has been liable ſince his fever in the month of Auguſt laſt; and not ſimply of the grief he has ſuffered for the unexpected death of his lady; though it is probable, that this latter circumſtance, by weakening the force of the circulation, has proved the remote cauſe of the former. We muſt therefore endeavour all we can to ſollicit the return of the eruption.

eruption. The great anxiety under which he ſtill labours, is extremely unfavourable for our purpoſe; and as, on that account, we cannot expect ſo much benefit from the uſe of cordial and perſpirative medicines, as would otherwiſe accrue, it will be the more neceſſary that we inſiſt on topical applications to the part. I would adviſe that the arm be rubbed frequently, and for a conſiderable time together, with a warm flannel cloth, charged with the fumes of Benzoin, Thus, and Olibanum; and that afterwards it be embrocated with ſome ſuch mixture as the following,

R. Sp. vin. camphorat. uncias ſex, ung. nervin. uncias duas, tinctur. cantharid. drach. duas. Miſce.

When this proceſs is completed, let the arm be wrapped up in flannel, charged likewiſe with the fumes above mentioned; or in a cataplaſm of bread and milk,

milk, rendered acrid by the addition of muſtard ſeeds: warm plaſters may anſwer the ſame purpoſe. But ſhould theſe not ſucceed, it would be proper to apply a large veſiccatory.

In ſuch caſes I have often preſcribed, with great advantage, a warm bath of aromatic and diſcutient materials; or ordered flannel cloths to be dipped in a decoction of that kind, to which was added ſome crude ſal. Ammoniac, and brandy. The flannels being wrung out of this decoction, and applied warm to the body, never fail of promoting a derivation of the fluids towards the ſkin. The ſame effect may be produced, by giving ſome ſpirit of hartſhorn in a diſh of warm wine; and to forward ſuch an operation, let me add, that I ſhould be much inclined to the gentleman's taking a briſk vomit. A warm generous diet muſt be enjoined, with the liberal uſe of wine; as alſo exerciſe in the carriage, the inability of the arm rendering that on horſe-back inconvenient.

To

To conclude: the grand indication in the preſent caſe is, to expel out of the habit the acrid matter which has fixed upon the nerves of the arm. For this purpoſe, all ſtimulating applications will be of ſervice externally; and the propulſive power of the heart muſt be invigorated by the uſe of wine and cordial medicines. If theſe means ſhould prove ineffectual, which I do not imagine, it would be adviſeable for our patient to go to Bath. But I expect to hear from you before that point is determined. Pray recommend to his friends, to endeavour as much as poſſible to diſſipate his grief; for ſerenity of mind is of the greateſt conſequence in the cure of all nervous diſorders. I am, &c.

The extreme grief which this gentleman indulged reſiſting the milder applications, recourſe was at length had to bliſters, which effected a radical cure.

CASE

CASE XXIV.

Of the Fluor Albus.

SIR,

I Perfectly agree with you in opinion, that the occaſional cauſe of the fluor albus in the honourable lady who is your patient, is an obſtruction of the Menſes, under which it ſeems ſhe has laboured for ſome months. I wiſh, however, that a relaxation of the uterine veſſels in particular were the only cauſe to which we ought to aſcribe the diſorder. But it is evident that the lady has been in a very cachectic habit of body for ſome time; and this circumſtance, I am afraid, will render the cure extremely tedious.

You acquaint me, that for almoſt three years ſhe had been ſubject to a conſiderable diſcharge of phlegmatic matter from the lungs; but that this ſymptom has totally ceaſed ſince the appearance of the

the fluor. I have had occaſion to obſerve ſeveral inſtances of ſuch a tranſmutation; and where it happens, we muſt be attentive to the prevention of the antecedent complaint, as well as the cure of the ſubſequent.

The firſt thing we are to endeavour is, to correct the lady's habit of body. For this purpoſe, we muſt begin by cleanſing the ſtomach and bowels, which in all probability are loaded with viſcid humours. I ſee no reaſon for declining to give a vomit, notwithſtanding the recency of her former complaint in the breaſt; as there are not any ſymptoms which afford preſumption of obſtructions being formed in the lungs. I never think one vomit ſufficient where the effects we expect from it depend not only on the evacuation produced by the emetic, but likewiſe its mechanical action; eſpecially in the caſe of a patient to whom it would be improper to adminiſter a vomit in a large doſe. On this

account, I would recommend that the lady repeat the emetic two or three times at proper diſtances.

Aloetic purgatives are excellently adapted to the lady's ſituation, in reſpect both of her cachectic habit of body, and the diſorders conſequent to it. Theſe I would propoſe giving once or twice, in a full doſe, in order to cleanſe the inteſtines; and afterwards in a ſmaller quantity occaſionally, to act as a laxative, and ſlowly drain off the ſerous humours, which are the cauſe and ſupport of the diſeaſe.

While we endeavour to check the flux by promoting the inteſtinal diſcharge, we muſt alſo be particularly attentive to forward the digeſtions; as it is ultimately on the right performance of theſe that the alteration of the habit of body depends. For that purpoſe, I would preſcribe the following tincture.

R.

R. Cort. Peruvian.
aurantior. ana uncias duas, vin. alb. Hiſpan. lib. duas. Infunde per quatriduum, & colatura adde vin. chalybeat. uncias octo.

The doſe of this tincture is a glaſsful twice a day, to be taken when the ſtomach is moſt empty.

As to topical applications, they can be but of little advantage till towards the cloſe of the cure; when the habit of body being corrected, the only particular indication is, to ſtrengthen the veſſels of the uterus. It is not in every caſe, however, that they can reach the ſeat of the diſorder; nor do they promiſe to be attended with any benefit, except where the flux is occaſioned by a relaxation of the excretories of the vagina.

In reſpect to diet, I can only adviſe the continuance of the ſame light and

 temperate

temperate regimen which you have already prescribed for her. A decoction of the woods in lime water is an excellent medicated drink in cases of this kind, and I much approve the use of it in the manner you have directed. For drink at meals, however, I think there is nothing preferable, in the lady's case, to Pyrmont water.

Riding on horseback will be of great advantage in the cure; and I would propose that the lady should remove to a drier situation; for there is reason to think, that the moist atmosphere in the place where she resides has greatly contributed to produce her disorder; nor do I expect that it can be totally extirpated while that cause continues to act.

By persisting a few months in the method of cure which is prescribed; I make no doubt of the lady's recovering her former state of health; as the flux is accompanied with no acrimony, and there

there are no ſymptoms of ulcers being formed in the uterus or vagina.

I am, &c.

CASE XXIV.

Of a periodical Hæmoptoe.

Dear SIR,

I AM favoured with your account of lady ---- whoſe complaint is a Hæmoptoe, which has troubled her theſe four months at the periods of her natural evacuation. This diſorder is evidently the conſequence of a plethoric diſpoſition, to which her ladyſhip much inclines.

The obſervation that her ladyſhip continues to have her menſtrual diſcharge in much the ſame quantity as uſual, does not affect, in my apprehenſion, the probability of the diſorder being owing to the cauſe I have aſ-

 ſigned.

ſigned. For as ſhe has laid aſide the uſe of a great part of the exerciſe which ſhe was formerly wont to take, a greater accumulation of blood in the veſſels muſt enſue, and that redundancy not being evacuated by a more copious flow of the catamenia, it has opened to itſelf a paſſage by a dilatation of ſome of the veſſels in the lungs.

I am perſuaded that we ſhall find this idea of the diſorder confirmed by the method of cure. For obtaining that end, nothing more ſeems requiſite than that her ladyſhip be blooded, and that ſhe return to the uſe of her former exerciſe. I am of opinion that aſtringents are entirely ſuperfluous in her caſe; and, without væneſection, might even prove hurtful; as they would endanger a rupture of the pulmonary veſſels.

I ſay nothing of any regulations reſpecting diet, as I know her ladyſhip to be perfectly temperate in that article.

Pleaſe

Pleaſe to preſent my reſpects to her ladyſhip and Mrs. ----.

I am, &c.

By the means abovementioned, the return of the Hæmoptoe was entirely prevented.

CASE XXVI.

Of a Phthiſis Pulmonalis.

SIR,

FROM the ſymptom you have mentioned in relating the caſe of Lord ——, it is beyond a queſtion that his lordſhip labours under the Phthiſis Pulmonalis. He has a conſtant quick pulſe, attended with a frequent cough, by which he expectorates a very tough, ſlimy, yellow matter. He has likewiſe a conſtant tendency to purging, and ſometimes to ſweating. His appetite is gone, and he daily waſtes in his fleſh. You very properly preſcribed for him

the pectoral decoction; and on his cough not being mitigated by that remedy, had recourſe to Laudanum.

You know how little we can do with certainty for the cure of the diſeaſe. The chief indications are, to ſupport his lordſhip's ſtrength, and correct the acrimony of the blood. Both theſe intentions will be anſwered by a milk diet, which, as being aceſcent, is oppoſed to putrefaction, as mild it does not ſtimulate, and it is alſo nouriſhing. I would adviſe perſiſting in the uſe of the pectoral decoction, and ſometimes the infuſ. Lini, with liquorice, in order to heal the ulcer, and eradicate the cauſe of the febrile ſymptoms. His lordſhip's caſe has ſo great a ſimilarity to that of Mr. ---- that I think it may be treated exactly in the ſame manner; and were it not that he is ſo liable to the catarrh, which was originally the cauſe of the diſeaſe, I ſhould entertain greater hopes of ſucceſs than we can indulge on that conſideration.

conſideration. I approve of his lordſhip's wearing a flannel ſhirt, which I look upon as highly beneficial for ſupporting an equable perſpiration. This is one of thoſe caſes in which the removal to a warm and dry air is of great advantage. If the diſorder, therefore, ſhould not abate very ſoon, a journey to the ſouth of France, before the approach of the cold weather, would be highly adviſeable.

I have not mentioned that his lordſhip ought to drink of the Briſtol waters along with the milk, as, you may remember, was done in the caſe above ſpoken of. Proper exerciſe is an eſſential article, and I imagine it is already uſed by your direction. I have nothing more to add at preſent, than that

I am, &c.

By following theſe directions, and occaſionally uſing the Lac Ammoniaca, when expectoration was difficult, his lordſhip

lordſhip gradually recovered his health; and in two months after, ſet off for Montpelier, where he paſſed the winter without any return of his complaint.

CASE XXVII.

Of a periodical Efflorescence of the right Arm.

SIR,

I HAVE been favoured with your letter containing the caſes of two patients. The complaint of Miſs ----- is, that ſhe is ſeized with an efflorescence and fulneſs of the right arm, which gradually advance for about a week before the returns of her natural evacuation, and diſappear in the ſame manner as that declines. She is of a ſanguine habit of body, and was firſt attacked by theſe ſymptoms a few days preceding the firſt eruption of her Menſes.

I am

I am clearly of opinion that this complaint proceeds from a redundancy of blood, of which nature endeavours to relieve herſelf by protruding it upon the veſſels which paſs through the cellular membrane of the arm.

I can by no means accede to the propoſal that has been made by Dr. ---- for preventing theſe periodical ſymptoms, by the topical application of aſtringents, and binding the arm in tight bandages. This is a method which might be attended with very great danger; for ſhould we reſtrain the depoſition of the blood upon that member, it is uncertain what other part of the body might not ſuffer from the experiment. A rupture of the pulmonary veſſels, or ſome fatal accident, in all probability would enſue. The only method which, in my apprehenſion, can be adopted with ſafety and ſucceſs, is, to bleed in the veins of the feet, as ſoon as the fluxion begins to appear upon the arm; ſo as to diminiſh the

the extraordinary plethora, without checking the menſtrual diſcharge.

Should the lady marry, and have children, it is not improbable that the ſymptoms will totally ceaſe; as the veſſels of the uterus being then accuſtomed to a greater degree of dilatation, they may yield more readily to the periodical flow of the Catamenia.

The complaint of this lady affords a ſtrong argument in favour of the opinion, that the menſtrual evacuation is the conſequence not of a fulneſs of the uterine veſſels alone, but of a general plethora of the whole body.

I ſhall be glad to know the ſucceſs of the method I have adviſed. Concerning the other patient I ſhall write you to-morrow, being at preſent obliged to go to Richmond. I am, &c.

On making trial of the method of cure above recommended, the lady's complaints were prevented from ever riſing to their former degree.

CASE XXVIII.

Of various Complaints attending the menſtrual Diſcharge.

SIR,

YOU inform me that Miſs ----, a young lady about eighteen years of age, is ſeized, at every return of the Menſes, with violent pains of the back and belly, ſpaſms, faintings, delirium, and ſometimes convulſions. The diſcharge of the Catemenia is ſlow, and generally continues for five or ſix days.

The cauſe of theſe complaints is a tenſity of the uterine veſſels, whereby the blood not paſſing through them with ſufficient facility, they are expoſed to painful

painful diſtenſion, which ſympathetically affects the nervous ſyſtem.

In ſuch a ſituation, nothing is of greater advantage than the uſe of the Semicupium, which I have often recommended with extraordinary ſucceſs. It is the practice of ſome phyſicians to order emmenagogic herbs to be boiled in the water employed for that purpoſe. But I totally diſapprove of that method; as the effect of it is, to ſtimulate, and thereby increaſe the tenſity which is the original cauſe of the diſorder. If any ingredients are made uſe of, they ought to be of the emollient kind.

For the ſame purpoſe, inſtead of the Semicupium, I ſometimes adviſe the application of flannel cloths, wrung out of an emollient decoction, to the region of the uterus, which are to be renewed as ſoon as they become cold; ordering likewiſe a clyſter of warm water,

ter, with which thirty or forty drops of Laudanum are mixed. When the patient is coſtive I uſually preſcribe a laxative clyſter with ſome Aſſa Fœtida, previous to that with the Laudanum.

In many caſes I preſcribe oily draughts to be taken internally, as tending greatly to produce the deſired relaxation of the veſſels; but as theſe perhaps might diſagree with the lady's ſtomach, I ſhall not poſitively adviſe the uſe of them in the preſent caſe, till the topical applications have been tried, which I hope will prove highly advantageous.

The uſe of remedies muſt not be reſtricted ſolely to the periods of the menſtrual evacuation, but even enjoined in the intervals, in order to facilitate the progreſs of the Catamenia at their next return. For anſwering this intention, I would recommend the frequent uſe of the Pediluvia, and that the lady ſhould take pretty often a doſe of the

Pilulæ

Pilulæ Rufi; as ſhe may likewiſe of the oily draughts, provided that they ſit eaſily on her ſtomach. Drawing ſome blood from the arm in the intervals of the flux, is alſo an expedient which, in my opinion, contributes to relax the veſſels, and I would therefore recommend an occaſional recourſe to it in the caſe of this lady.

I hope theſe means will prove effectual for removing the complaint, and have only to add, that I am, &c.

CASE

CASE XXIX.

Of Tumors of the Belly, accompanied with a Fever.

SIR,

THE account of the caſe of Mr. ---- being drawn up by the apothecary during your indiſpoſition, it will be proper to mention the circumſtances of which I have been informed, that you may judge of the exactneſs of the deſcription.

The gentleman is ſaid to be about forty-ſeven years of age, of a phlegmatic conſtitution, and inclining to corpulency. He has been accuſtomed to a full diet, and a ſedentary life. About two years ago he firſt was ſenſible of a ſmall tumor of the belly, on the right ſide of the navel, which was imperceptible to the eye, but could readily be felt by preſſing the hand upon the part.

It ſeemed to be pretty deeply ſeated, and at that time of the ſize of a common nut, though it is now conſiderably increaſed in bulk. Several other leſſer tumors have lately been obſerved in different parts of the belly. They are in general indolent, or accompanied with little pain. For theſe three weeks paſt, the gentleman has complained of unuſual thirſt, his appetite is diminiſhed, his tongue is whitiſh, and there is a perceptible degree of fever in his pulſe. Sometimes he is inclined to a looſeneſs, and at other times his urine depoſits a ſmall quantity of ſediment, which has the appearance of purulent matter.

Theſe are all the material circumſtances mentioned in the recital of the caſe; and from the conſideration of them, I am fully of opinion, that the gentleman's diſorder is obſtructions in the glands of the meſentery, of which one at leaſt is at preſent in a ſtate of ſuppuration. The apparent ſeat of the tumors,

the feveriſhneſs, and other ſymptoms, conſpire to ſuggeſt this idea; beſides its being favoured by the full diet, and inactive courſe of life that the gentleman has formerly led, which greatly diſpoſe to produce obſtructions of the abdominal viſcera.

In regard to the iſſue of this diſorder, it is extremely precarious. Being ſituated in a part to which no topical applications can be made, our utmoſt endeavours may prove ineffectual, either for cleanſing or healing the ulcer. Theſe, however, are intentions which we muſt if poſſible accompliſh, though they are not the ſole indications that ariſe from the nature of the diſeaſe. Beſides attempting to heal the ulcerated parts, it will alſo be requiſite that we endeavour to preſerve from ſuppuration ſuch tumors as have not hitherto arrived at that ſtate.

Previous to entering upon the cure, it will be neceſſary that the gentleman be enjoined to obſerve a ſtrict courſe of temperance, with the uſe of a mild and light diet; as the oppoſite regimen would not only increaſe the fever, but might produce freſh obſtructions, and occaſion the ſuppuration of all that are already formed. Milk, as being anti-putreſcent, and eaſy of digeſtion, ought to conſtitute the principal part of his food. He ſhould alſo uſe moderate exerciſe on horſeback or in a carriage, to reſolve the viſcidity of the fluids, and promote a free circulation through the viſcera of the abdomen.

If the fever be high, or freſh pains ſhould afford room to ſuſpect that any of the tumors was in a ſtate of inflammation, it would be proper to draw a little blood from the arm, in order to mitigate theſe ſymptoms.

The

The only medicines that promiſe aſſiſtance in this caſe are the ſaline draughts; which may prove beneficial not only by allaying the fever, and gently acting upon the obſtructions, but alſo by increaſing the urinary ſecretion, and thereby diſcharging the purulent matter which is abſorbed from the ulcers. To theſe a little nitre may be added, if the inflammatory ſymptoms are conſiderable.

I know nothing that is more likely to be of advantage in the gentleman's ſituation than the uſe of goat whey, which, from the opening and deterſive qualities it poſſeſſes, is admirably adapted to the cure of all viſceral obſtructions or ulcers. The ſeaſon of it is juſt approaching, and I would adviſe his taking the benefit of it immediately. When the time of uſing it is over, it would be highly proper that the gentleman ſhould take a journey to the ſouthern climates.

I have known a cure performed in ſeveral caſes, by the patient's travelling to Naples. The air of Portugal, and Montpelier has produced the ſame effects. The languid viſcidity, and acrimony of the fluids, which prove the cauſe of ſuch diſorders, are never ſo ſucceſsfully corrected as by the aſſiſtance of a dry and moderately warm air.

After what has been mentioned, I ſhall only recommend, that the gentleman take three or four times a day half a pint of a decoction made of the opening roots of ſome of the vulnerary plants, to which, if requiſite, a little nitre might alſo be added.

I am, &c.

The gentleman recovered of his diſorder, and, to prevent its returning, was afterwards adviſed to the free uſe of exerciſe, and a temperate diet; avoiding viſcid aliments and malt liquors, inſtead of

of the laſt of which, wine and water was recommended for his drink.

CASE XXX.

Of a Diarrhœa.

SIR,

I HAVE unfortunately miſlaid the account you ſent me of the caſe of Sir. ---- which I received laſt night. But if I am not miſtaken, the circumſtances it contained were as follow.

That for a fortnight paſt, he has laboured under a troubleſome diarrhœa, which generally increaſes towards the evening. It is accompanied with borborygmi, and ſhifting pains of the belly. His appetite is languid, he frequently complains of thirſt, his pulſe is unuſually quick, he has often a head-ach ſoon after eating, his tongue is whitiſh, the matter diſcharged by ſtool is thin and

frothy, and his urine is in ſmall quantity, and high coloured.

You informed me in your letter, that the catarrh and ſore throat have for theſe two months been very endemic in your part of the country, as they alſo have in town. This is, in my opinion, a very material circumſtance for elucidating the nature of Sir ----'s diſorder; which I take to be nothing elſe than a critical evacuation by the inteſtines, of the acrid perſpirable matter, which, in other patients, has generally ſeized the trochea and larynx. The circumſtances you mention, of his ſkin being dry, and feet often cold, without any concomitant ſymptom that relates to the hypochondriac complaint, as far as I find, ſeem clearly to evince that his diſeaſe is of a catarrhous original; for I have obſerved thoſe ſymptoms in moſt of the patients who have been under my care in the preſent influenza.

Why

Why the ſtate of the air, which has in others ſo generally occaſioned a catarrh and ſore throat, ſhould produce in Sir ---- a fluxion on the inteſtines, is to be accounted for only upon the principle of idioſyncracy. But I think you mention that he formerly had a dyſentery, and is now apprehenſive of a return of that diſorder. Such an apprehenſion is certainly not without ground; for there is reaſon to infer from his hiſtory, that he labours under a weakneſs of the bowels. It is ſo far fortunate, however, that no dyſenteric ſymptom has appeared as yet in his preſent illneſs: and I am pretty confident, that by the method of cure we ſhall follow, the diſeaſe will be prevented from arriving at that termination.

For curing this complaint, we muſt attend to two indications. One is, to guard the inteſtines from the acrimony of the humours which flow upon them; and

and the other is, to divert the courſe of the fluxion. The firſt of theſe intentions will be anſwered by the uſe of a mild and mucilaginous diet, which, by ſheathing the coats of the inteſtines, may prevent their veſſels from being eroded; ſuch, for inſtance, as ſoft, lubricating broths made of veal or mutton. Marſhmallow or linſeed tea will likewiſe be ſerviceable for the ſame end. Should the purging continue, it would be proper to adminiſter ſome of theſe by way of clyſter, along with reſtringent ingredients, to prevent any ſymptoms of a dyſentery. I have no doubt, however, but that diſorder will be entirely obviated, and the preſent complaint cured, by proſecuting the indication we are next to purſue; which is to divert the courſe of the fluxion.

The remarkable connection between the inteſtines and ſkin, as well as the cauſe of the preſent diſorder, which appears to be a retention of the perſpirable matter,

matter point out to us that the method of fulfilling this intention muſt be, by increaſing the cuticular diſcharge, and ſo making a derivation from the internal parts. We ſhall find a vomit of great advantage for this purpoſe. Let Sir ----, therefore, take a ſcruple of the powder of ipocacuanha, or a proportional doſe of the tincture, at night; and, after the operation of it is over, the following draught.

R. Aq. cinnamom. ſ. v. ſeſcunciam, ſp. minderer. drachmas duas, laudan. liquid. gut. quindecim, diacod. drachmas duas; miſce.

This will probably produce a diaphoreſis, and abate the diarrhæa. But ſhould it not ſucceed, we muſt ſtill perſevere in uſing a perſpirative courſe, and, in order to facilitate the cure, the vomit may be occaſionally repeated. Juleps, or draughts, ſimilar to that above preſcribed, muſt alſo be freely taken; the doſe

doſe of the laudanum being regulated, both in quantity and frequency, by the effects which are produced.

The operation of theſe medicines will be greatly promoted by drinking of warm diluting liquors; as tea, coffee, ſage-tea, &c. ſack-whey will likewiſe be highly ſerviceable, taken in ſuch a quantity as the pulſe will admit.

Bathing the feet frequently in warm water, or, when they are cold, applying warm bricks to the ſoles, will be of exceeding great ſervice in removing the ſpaſm from the ſkin, and facilitating the eruption of a diaphoreſis. In ſome caſes of the ſame kind, I have adviſed the uſe even of the ſemicupium with much advantage.

During the continuance of the diſorder, it would be adviſeable that Sir ------ lye in flannel. I have now mentioned all that ſeems neceſſary, and ſhall conclude

conclude with expreſſing my expectation that the uſe of theſe means will be attended with the moſt ſalutary effect.

I am, &c.

CASE XXXI.

Of an obſtinate Ague.

Dear SIR,

IN regard to lord ---'s intermitting fever which proves ſo obſtinate, you have ſo far exhauſted the method of cure, that there is ſcarce room left for ſuggeſting any other expedient. You have uſed every proper evacuation with judgment. You have enjoined a good regimen. You preſcribed the bark at a proper time, and the uſe of it has now been perſiſted in for almoſt a whole month. You have even endeavoured to promote the efficacy of that febrifuge by joining bitters and chalybeates along with it. Nor have you neglected the trial of alum and nutmegs, &c.

&c. The cold bath you rightly judge unadviſeable on account of the weakneſs of his lordſhip's lungs. What can be added to ſo large a liſt of reſources; or to what cauſe ſhall we impute the failure of ſo powerful medicines as thoſe which have been preſcribed? ſhall we ſay that the bark which his lordſhip has taken, has not been of a good kind? This certainly is too often the caſe; but perhaps the ſame kind of bark has been ſucceſsfully adminiſtered to other patients in the intermitting fever.

We cannot, in my opinion, impute the obſtinancy of his lordſhip's complaint to any other cauſe, than its being firmly rivetted in the conſtitution. Now it is generally imagined, that intermitting fevers have their origin in viſceral obſtructions. I ſhould therefore be induced to think, that, in his lordſhip's caſe, the obſtuctions are more than uſually fixed. To what method of cure will this idea of the diſorder conduct us? to the ſame,

as

as I conceive, which is uſed in the quartan fever, where it is admitted that the bowels are much obſtructed. My opinion is, in ſhort, that we muſt have recourſe to deobſtruent medicines for the radical cure of the diſeaſe. In a quartan fever, mercury is found to be of the greateſt advantage; and I can ſee no reaſon why we ought not to try it in the preſent caſe. Let me, therefore, adviſe the expedient.*

His lordſhip muſt continue to follow the regimen you preſcribed, uſing Pyrmont water for drink. I would recommend the uſe of a flannel ſhirt, and that our noble patient ſhould try the effects of travelling into a warmer climate, which will certainly prove highly advantageous. Dr. Mead lately obliged me, by preſenting

* In the ſecond volume of the Medical Tranſactions, an inſtance is related by Dr. D. Monro, of an ague, which had reſiſted every remedy, being readily cured by the bark, after an accidental ſaliyation from mercury.

ing my compliments to you, and I now have the pleaſure of returning the obligation, at his requeſt. Accept therefore of our united offers, believe me to be, &c.

His lordſhip could not be prevailed with to try the effects of mercury, on account of an averſion which he had contracted to that medicine ſome years before. But by following the dietifical rules which had been preſcribed; by perſeverance for a longer time in the uſe of Peruvian bark, which was ſent him from town, mixed with crude ſal ammoniac; and by travelling abroad, he recovered of his intermittent fever, and his conſtitution was ſtrengthened.

CASE

CASE XXXII.

Of a Jaundice.

SIR,

I AM juſt now favoured with your account of farmer ---- whoſe diſeaſe is the jaundice. His caſe affords a remarkable inſtance of the unſucceſsfulneſs which muſt neceſſarily attend every method of cure that is not founded upon juſt indications. Becauſe in a jaundice, which it appears he had about four years ago, he was adviſed to the uſe of laudanum and the warm bath, and experienced great benefit from them, he raſhly inferred that the ſame remedies muſt be proper in a diſeaſe of a ſimilar appearance. It is evident from the Juvantia as well as from the obſervation of his having paſſed

gall-ſtones, that his diſorder formerly was owing to biliary concretions in the ducts. But the cauſe of his preſent complaint I apprehend to be totally different. Before the diſeaſe appeared externally, he complained of great anxiety in the region of the liver, nauſea, vomiting, and ſickneſs. He felt no pain, however, at the pit of the ſtomach, nor was ſenſible of any unuſual heat and thirſt; abſence of which ſymptoms affords ſufficient proof, that his diſorder proceeds not from any concretion in the biliary ducts. The real cauſe of his jaundice is a viſcidity of the bile, whereby the capillary veſſels of the liver are obſtructed. Too glutinous a conſiſtence of that liquor is not uncommon in perſons of a groſs and corpulent habit of body, as he is repreſented to be. For in people of ſuch a conſtitution, the fluids abound with many oily particles, which are much diſpoſed to ſtagnate in the ſmall veſſels, where the circulation is ſlow.

As there appears to be no inflammation of the liver in this patient's caſe, and his diſorder is recent, I entertain not the ſmalleſt doubt of his recovery.

If his pulſe is full, ſome blood muſt be drawn from the arm, to diminiſh the plethora. This operation will not only abate the oppreſſion he feels on the liver, but render the future action of an emetic more ſafe, and make room for diluting liquors.

As a vomit, in the jaundice, I generally preſcribe the oxymel ſcilliticum, on account of its effect in attenuating the phlegmatic humours, which abound in the ſtomach and bowels when the ſecretion of the bile is interrupted. Beſides cleanſing the ſtomach, and by that means preventing the farther acceſſion of glutinous humours to the blood, through the channel of the chylopoitic organs, a vomit greatly contributes, by

its action, to attenuate the general viſcidity of the fluids, and propel the ſluggiſh bile in the capillary veſſels of the liver. When the jaundice is obſtinate, much of the cure depends upon the occaſional repetition of emetics.

After a vomit our patient muſt enter upon purgatives; of which, likewiſe, thoſe of the attenuating kind are moſt proper. I generally make uſe of the aloetics, and chiefly the tinctura ſacra, though I have no objection to rhubarb. Let Mr. ---- therefore take a full doſe of either of theſe cathartics; and if the latter be preferred, it would be very adviſeable to join with it a few grains of calomel. The purges in this caſe have the ſame beneficial effects with a vomit, as far as regards the evacuation of the viſcid humours; beſides that ſo much of them as may be abſorbed into the blood, will act in attenuating the glutinous conſiſtence of the fluids.

The

The uſe of purgatives is particularly indicated in this diſeaſe; becauſe the bile not paſſing into the inteſtines, to forward their periſtaltic motion, it is neceſſary that they be excited to the performance of their natural functions by means of other ſtimulating ſubſtances.

After premiſing the above evacuations, I would adviſe that the patient ſhould take four of the following pills three times a day.

R. Sapon. venet. drachmas duas, gum. ammoniac. Tartar. regenerat. Aloes Socotrin. ana drach. unam, ol. juniper. gut. x. ſyr. e cort. aurant. q. ſ. f. maſſa pilul. ex cujus unaquaque drach. formentur pil. duodecim.

The uſe of theſe medicines, I hope, will cure his diſorder in a ſhort time; but he muſt abſtain from the warm bath, and laudanum, as being wholly unſuitable in his caſe.

I am, &c.

CASE XXXIII.

Of the Rheumatiſm.

SIR,

THE diſorder of Mr. ---- is evidently an acute rheumatiſm, and will require to be treated by the antiphlogiſtic method. You have very properly adviſed bleeding, and the uſe of gentle cathartics; both which it may perhaps be neceſſary to repeat. I would recommend the following draught to be taken every fifth or ſixth hour.

R.

R. Julep e camphor. aq. fontan. ana unciam unam, vin. antimon. drach. unam, nitri gr. xv. ſp. nitri dulc. gut. xxx. miſce.

If the violence of the pain prevents ſleep, it will be adviſeable to mix a proper quantity of an opiate with the doſe to be taken at bed-time; and if the pained parts are tumified, leeches ſhould be applied, as alſo diſcutient cataplaſms. What we generally uſe for this purpoſe, is rye or oat-meal, made up with the lees of old malt liquor and common ſalt.

We frequently obſerve, that after the acute rheumatiſm has continued for ſome days, it aſſumes the appearance of an intermittent. When this happens, the bark ought to be immediately given. I would not delay the uſe of that remedy, however, till the diſeaſe has quite changed its type; for if we diſcover any

ſigns of the humours being concocted, ſuch as a ſediment in the urine, and the breaking forth of ſweats, we may ſafely have recourſe to the febrifuge; and in this ſituation I always find it greatly ſhorten the continuance of the diſorder, eſpecially during the prevalence of a moiſt diſpoſition of the air. In the mean time, it will be abſolutely neceſſary that the gentleman make uſe of a low diet.

I am, &c.

CASE

CASE XXXIV.

Of an Epilepſy.

SIR,

I HAVE conſidered the caſe of the young gentleman, whoſe diſorder is the Epilepſy; and if in any diſeaſe it is neceſſary to attend minutely to the hiſtory of the patient, it is certainly in complaints of that kind. I have known few caſes more accurately drawn up than what you have now favoured me with; though I muſt acknowledge at the ſame time, that it is not ſufficient to afford all the ſatisfaction I ſhould deſire in reſpect to the cauſe of the diſeaſe. But this muſt be charged to a defect of the ſcience, and not of your obſervation.

This young gentleman, it ſeems, is near to twelve years of age, of a healthy conſtitution,

conſtitution, though ſomewhat delicate, and born of parents who have lived pretty free from any nervous complaint. He had been ſubject to a cutaneous eruption about five years, which diſappeared eight months ago, when he lived at Naples with his father. Since his return to Britain he has had the ſmall-pox, which proved to be of the confluent kind; and though it would appear that he had been treated with ſufficient judgment in that diſorder, he has, from the time it left him, frequently complained of ſharp pains in his bowels, to which he was formerly not ſubject.

As theſe pains were attended with other ſymptoms that are commonly excited by worms, it was very natural for you to imagine that they proceeded entirely from that cauſe; but after perſevering three months, without ſucceſs, in the uſe of anthelmintic remedies, I think there is ſtrong ground for ſuſpecting a different origin of the complaint.

My

My opinion is, that the epileptic fits with which the young gentleman is afflicted, are occaſioned by an acrimony of blood, which irritates the nerves to convulſive motions. This acrimony ſeems to have been natural to his conſtitution for ſome years, from the eruptions to which he formerly was liable. Why theſe totally diſappeared while he was at Naples, may be accounted for from the warmth of that climate, which proves ſo favourable in all diſorders proceeding from a deficiency of perſpiration.

It may be aſked, that if the young gentleman's blood continues ſtill to be tainted with an acrimonious quality, why do not the eruptions which were formerly habitual to him again reſume their appearance? This objection muſt certainly be allowed to have ſome force, though not ſufficient to overthrow the opinion. For we find from daily experience, that an acrimony of the fluids is not always accompanied with viſible external

ternal indications. How often do we obſerve ſcorbutic perſons entirely free from eruptive complaints, while at the ſame time their blood is highly contaminated with a ſharp and putrid taint?

It may likewiſe be aſked, that were an acrimony of the fluids really the cauſe of the diſorder, why ſhould the Epilepſy ever have any intermiſſions? To this objection I ſhall only reply, that the limits of human knowledge do not permit us to account in a ſatisfactory manner for all the various circumſtances of diſeaſes. In judging of the nature of diſorders which are not evident to the ſenſes, our opinions muſt be guided by the degree of probability; and ſhould we never venture to preſcribe without a perfect knowledge of the cauſe of every malady, the ſcience of medicine would become almoſt totally uſeleſs. But to return from this digreſſion: the method of cure muſt, in my opinion, be conducted upon the idea of an acrimonious

acrimonious quality of the blood being the cauſe of the diſeaſe. It would be unneceſſary to mention the treatment of the patient in the fits of the Epilepſy, as that muſt be the ſame which is uſual in all other caſes of the kind. I ſhall therefore confine myſelf to point out the medicinal courſe that to me appears the moſt proper for preventing the return of the diſeaſe.

In conformity to the opinion I entertain of the cauſe of this obſcure diſorder, the object we have to purſue in the prophylactic method of cure is, to correct the bad quality of the blood. This general indication includes two others; which are, to promote the digeſtions and diſcharges.

To anſwer the firſt of theſe intentions, the uſe of ſtomachic medicines will be proper; and among theſe the Peruvian bark ought to have a principal place, as not only being an excellent bitter,

bitter, but as it alſo ſtrengthens a weakly habit of body, and, by that means promotes the regular exerciſe of all the functions of the animal œconomy.

With reſpect to the diſcharges, thoſe by the ſkin and inteſtines are what we have chiefly to attend to; for the urinary excretion is ſeldom deficient, except in dropſies, or diſeaſes where the kidneys are affected.

For ſupporting the inteſtinal diſcharge, when the patient is bound in his belly, I would adviſe that he take occaſionally ſome gentle lenative. A drachm of Sal Polychreſt, diſſolved in warm water, and taken in the morning, will anſwer the purpoſe exceeding well. Or a ſpoonful of the bitter tincture of rhubarb, taken at night, may ſerve the ſame end.

Toward maintaining the perſpiration in a regular courſe, a light diet, with proper

proper drink, and exercise, will in a great measure supply the use of medicine. The young gentleman must avoid all salted, indigestible, or acrid food, and use the Decoct. Lignor. for common drink.

He ought to guard against cold by warm cloathing, and be particularly careful of being wet. I am of opinion that a warm and dry air would be of great advantage, in his disorder.

Besides the means above mentioned, the use of Scarborough water would be adviseable, for depurating his blood the more effectually.

I should be happy to find that the course I have recommended had proved successful; but should our endeavours not produce the desired effect, there is still room to hope, that at the age of puberty, when the constitution is invigorated, the young gentleman may ever afterwards

afterwards be entirely abſolved from his complaint. That this may prove the caſe I earneſtly wiſh.

And am, &c.

Though the epileptic fits had formerly been frequent, and generally pretty ſevere, yet by perſiſting for ſome months in the courſe above preſcribed, the young gentleman had only three ſlight paroxyſms from the time he entered upon the regimen. I have met with a few other caſes of the ſame kind.

CASE

CASE XXXV.

Of a Rheumatiſm.

SIR,

IT gives me great pleaſure to be informed of the perfect recovery of our patient in the acute rheumatiſm; and I hope we ſhall have the ſame ſucceſs in reſpect to the gentleman of whom you now write me, whoſe complaint is that of the chronic kind.

There is very little difference between the treatment of theſe two ſpecies of rheumatiſm, except in the article of bleeding, and the antiphlogyſtic method; and as to bleeding, it is frequently uſeful in the chronic rheumatiſm alſo, where the diſorder has not been of long ſtanding, and the pains are ſevere. As to the expediency of that operation, therefore, I leave you entirely to determine, who have the op-

portunity of obſerving how much the gentleman's pulſe is affected by the diſeaſe.

I would adviſe that the diaphoretic draughts, of the julep. e camphor. &c. * which were preſcribed for M. ---- may alſo be adminiſtered in the preſent caſe; and I think that it would be of great advantage to mix ſome of the gum guaiac. along with them; for it is an excellent attenuating diaphoretic in that diſorder. When the pain is violent, an opiate ought to be given at bed-time, and may be conveniently joined to the draughts.

Dry frictions, warm ſaponaceous liniments or plaſters, and bliſters, applied to the pained part, I have always found to be of great benefit in the chronic rheumatiſm; and where the diſeaſe has become habitual from a weakneſs of perſpiration,

* See Caſe xxxiii.

perſpiration, I have ordered the uſe of a flannel ſhirt with remarkable advantage. I am of opinion that this is greatly the caſe with our preſent patient, and that the expedient would therefore be adviſeable.

I would likewiſe recommend that he enter on a courſe of the Peruvian bark, to which a little of the powder of guaiac may be added. It will brace his relaxed fibres, and promote perſpiration, a defect of which is the eſſential cauſe of the diſeaſe. Nor is any thing more effectual for theſe purpoſes than the cold-bath. Let him, for theſe two months to come, make uſe of the bark and guaiac; and he may then, through the ſummer, ſubſtitute the cold bath in their place. As he has been already enjoined a proper regimen in diet and exerciſe, I have nothing to add on theſe ſubjects. The circumſtance you mentioned, however, of his being accuſtomed to walk out early in the mornings, even when

the ground is wet, deſerves particular attention; for ſuch a practice is extremely injurious to rheumatic people. I recommend to you, therefore, to diſſuade him from it.

And am, &c.

CASE XXXVI.

Of a Tympany.

SIR,

I HAVE received your information relative to the caſe of Mrs.----who has lately had a tertian fever, and is now apprehenſive that ſhe is fallen into a dropſy. Be pleaſed to aſſure her, that her complaint is nothing of that kind. An aſcites always advances gradually, and never without a remarkable diminution of the natural quantity of urine. In that diſorder, there is alſo a great weight felt in the belly, attended with a perceptible fluctuation when the perſon is moved in bed. Now, of none of theſe ſymptoms does

does ſhe complain. Neither did the ſwelling of her belly advance ſlowly but ſuddenly, after taking ſeveral doſes of the bark to remove the intermittent.

The complaint with which the lady is attacked, is a tympany; which I have ſeveral times obſerved to ſucceed an intermitting fever, where the bark has been prematurely adminiſtered, without ſufficient evacuations: and the ſame is undoubtedly the cauſe of it in the preſent caſe.

When this flatuleut diſtention has continued long, I have found it very difficult to diſcuſs; but as in this lady the diſorder is recent, there is reaſon to hope that we ſhall be able to reſtore the bowels to their former tone, and thereby remove the complaint.

Were the tympany accompanied with a fever, it would be proper to bleed: but as you inform me that Mrs. ---- is totally free

from that ſympton, it will be ſufficient in the preſent caſe to proſecute the other indications of cure. Theſe are, to keep the belly open by laxatives, and expel the flatulence by carminatives.

For anſwering the firſt of theſe intentions, I would recommend the uſe of rhubarb, as partaking of a ſtrengthening quality; and I think that, in this caſe, the powder is preferable to any preparation of it, by having the greateſt chance of being carried into the colon, which is the principal ſeat of the complaint. Eight or ten grains taken morning or evening daily may anſwer the purpoſe; though I have ſometimes been obliged either to increaſe the doſe, or order it to be taken twice a day, when by the uſe of carminatives the body would otherwiſe have been rendered coſtive. The carminatives I would uſe are the following.

R.

R. Rad. calam. aromatic. zingib. nuc. moſchat. ana, drach. unam, f. pulvis.

Five or ſix grains of this powder may be taken two or three times a day; and it would be adviſeable that the patient ſhould alſo take pretty frequently a diſh of camomile tea, which will tend much to relax the ſpaſms of the bowels. A ſmall quantity of juniper berries may be advantageouſly infuſed along with the camomile flowers.

If theſe internal remedies prove ineffectual, it would be proper to have recourſe to the cold bath. In the mean time the lady muſt uſe exerciſe on horſeback, and avoid all flatulent aliments. I am, &c.

By the uſe of theſe means the lady recovered in about three weeks, and afterwards drank of a chalybeate water, to prevent the return of the complaint.

CASE XXXVII.

Of a Quartan Fever.

SIR,

I AM very apprehenſive that the quartan, with which the ſchoolmaſter is ſeized, may terminate in a dropſy. For in perſons of a ſedentary way of life, I have generally found it to be attended with incurable obſtructions of the bowels. He muſt not be indulged in taking the bark as ſoon as he deſires. Deobſtruent medicines are previouſly to be given. I would recommend the following.

R. Sapon. Venet. drach. duas, gum. ammoniac. galban. tartar. regenerat. ana drach. unam, calomel. ſcrup. unum. ſyr. e cort. aurant. q. ſ. f. maſſa pilularis. Capiat æger quatuor vel quinq. bis in die.

I would

I would alſo have the patient take five or ſix ſpoonfuls of the Infuſ. Amarum twice a day. The vomit may be once or twice repeated; and it will be proper that he take, occaſionally, as much of the Tinctura Sacra as keeps his belly open. He muſt by all means uſe exerciſe on the intermediate days of the diſeaſe. Before the bark be adminiſtered, let him continue the uſe of theſe medicines a few weeks, if his ſtrength will permit.

In point of diet I have nothing particular to enjoin, but that he avoid the uſe of viſcid aliments. Malt liquors are improper for his drink; and in place of them I would recommend wine and water.

I am, &c.

CASE

CASE XXXVIII.

Of a Dropſy.

SIR,

I AM ſorry to underſtand by your letter of Monday laſt, that my apprehenſion in regard to the poor ſchoolmaſter is but too much verified. There is no doubt that his aſcites proceeds from obſtructions of the bowels; and theſe, I am afraid, are irreſolveable. This being the caſe, I have no hope that tapping will be of any farther ſervice than by occaſionally relieving him from his complaint. While the cauſe remains, the diſorder will never ceaſe to return. Before recourſe be had to the operation, it will be proper to try the effect of diuretic and purgative remedies. As his ſtrength is conſiderably reduced, I am not ſatisfied that the latter is adviſeable; and it is my opinion, therefore, that the cure ought to be truſted to diuretics only.

only. Of that claſs of remedies, I know nothing better than the oxymel. ſcillitic. given in plain cinnamon water, to which a little of the compound may be added. The quantity of the oxymel may be half a drachm twice a day, or more if the ſtomach will bear it.

While he uſes the oxymel, he ought not to diſcontinue the medicines which were formerly preſcribed. For unleſs the obſtructions of the bowels be removed, we never can expect a radical cure of the aſcites. It is unneceſſary to mention, that he muſt be ſparing of liquids in his diet. His ſituation is exceeding dangerous, and I am afraid will baffle all our endeavours. I ſhall be anxious to know the iſſue of the good man's caſe.

And am, &c.

The diuretic medicines, though they ſomewhat increaſed the quantity of the patient's water, did not relieve his complaint.

plaint. The low ſtate he was in rendered the uſe of purgatives improper. He was once tapped; but in ten weeks after, his belly ſwelled to its former ſize. He would not ſubmit to the operation again, and ſoon died.

CASE XXXIX.

Of the Rickets.

MADAM,

I AM honoured with your ladyſhip's letter in regard to the children. From what your ladyſhip mentions, it appears that in maſter, at leaſt, ſome of the ſymptoms of the rickets are viſible. But as the diſorder has made ſo little progreſs, it may very ſoon be perfectly cured.

It will be proper that maſter take a gentle vomit of a few grains of ipocacuanha. Five, I imagine, will be ſufficient for the purpoſe. After this, I would

would give him ten grains of rhubarb once in the five or ſix days, if he can be prevailed with to take it. If not, a more palatable phyſic muſt be contrived for him, which may be made in the following manner. I muſt beg leave to write the perſcription for the apothecary.

R. Mannæ opt. drach. ſex. cremor. tartar. gr. decem. aq. fontan. ſecunciam, menthæ com. drach. duas, ſyr. roſar. damaſcen. drach. unam. Miſce.

On the day, betwixt the phyſic, he muſt take ſome ſtrengthening medicine. The Peruvian bark, which your ladyſhip had occaſion to make uſe of ſome time ago, is excellent for the purpoſe; and if maſter has nothing of feveriſhneſs about him, of which the apothecary muſt judge, it will be very proper that he take ſome ſteel medicine along with it. I ſhall write this preſcription likewiſe

wiſe for the apothecary, who can explain it to your ladyſhip, if deſired.

R. Cort. Peruvian. ſeſcunciam, aurantior. ſemunciam, ſem. coriand. drach. unam, vini Liſbonenſ. lib. duas; infunde per quatuor dies, & colaturæ adde vini chalybeat. uncias quatuor.

Of this tincture, let maſter take two table ſpoonfuls twice every day; about eleven o' clock in the morning, and five in the afternoon.

As the diſeaſe is not far advanced, I expect that it will be entirely removed by theſe means; but if it ſhould not yield within theſe two months, I would propoſe that maſter ſhould then be dipped in cold water every morning. The warm ſeaſon of the year will be favourable for the purpoſe, and your ladyſhip need be under no apprehenſion of any bad conſequences from it. There is nothing

nothing more effectual, either for curing the rickets or ſtrengthening the conſtitution. On coming out of the bath, he ought to be well dried; and it would be proper, that for a week or two from the time he begins to uſe the bath, he ſhould be put to bed immediately after, and continue for an hour, or ſomewhat more, in order to encourage perſpiration.

Though it may be ſuperfluous, it is proper I ſhould inform your ladyſhip, that the apartment in which maſter lays ought to be entirely free from all damp. The uppermoſt floor in the houſe is always the fitteſt for the nurſery.

When he is put to bed at night, it would be of ſervice that he were rubbed for ſome time, at leaſt his limbs, with a warm flannel cloth, that has been held over a ſufficient quantity of the vapour of the following ſubſtances, while they

are

are burning on a ſhovel. I ſtill write for the apothecary.

R. Gum. benzoin.
Oliban.
Myrrh.
Thur. ana, unciam unam. Miſce.

It is of great conſequence that he uſe exerciſe daily; and as he is rather too young to ſit on horſeback, a carriage muſt be employed for the purpoſe. His diet ought to conſiſt of the lighter kinds of meat; and I would have him entirely reſtricted from ſoups, buttery ſauces, and paſtry-work. The moſt proper drink for him is wine and water.

The diſorder is not ſo far advanced as to require any external applications, and I have therefore nothing to ſay on that ſubject, but that great care muſt be taken that his linnen and ſheets be always perfectly dry. When theſe are renewed, however, it would be very

very proper to impregnate them with the vapours which have been mentioned above. Were the nurſe ordered to ſtrew the leaves of ſome of the ſweet herbs in the drawers with his linen, even that expedient would be of advantage.

By following theſe injunctions there is not the ſmalleſt doubt but that Maſter will very ſoon recover of his preſent diſpoſition to the rickets. Let me warmly recommend to your ladyſhip that he uſe the cold bath, as ſoon as the weather becomes pretty mild; and if the other young gentleman be alſo ſubmitted to a courſe of bathing for ſome time, the diſorder will be entirely prevented from ever affecting him.

I beg leave to offer my humble reſpects to his lordſhip, and have the honour to be, &c.

CASE XL.

Of a Retention of Urine.

SIR,

I HAVE this moment received yours by expreſs, and in regard to Mr. ----- I think his ſituation highly dangerous. You inform me, that on his being probed by the ſurgeon, in order to draw off his urine, which has been voided with great difficulty for ſome time, and is now almoſt totally obſtructed, an unſurmountable obſtacle was found at the neck of the bladder, ſuppoſed to be a tumefaction of the proſtate gland. What, you aſk me, ſhall be done, to procure him immediate relief? I profeſs, I am of opinion that his caſe is beyond the power of medicine. If the diſorder was an inflammation, we might entertain ſome hopes of its being brought to a favourable iſſue. But there is not any ſymptom that can induce us to form

form ſuch an idea of the diſeaſe. It is in all probability a ſchirrous tumor, occaſioned by the venereal diſorder, under which you ſay, he lately laboured. We cannot expect, therefore, that it ſhould be ſpeedily cured, if indeed it be poſſible that it ever will. To produce that effect, the operation of remedies would require a conſiderable time; but his caſe can admit of no delay. There is no other reſource in my opinion, than tapping at the perinæum, and I think the operation ought to be performed immediately. The remedy is, no doubt, hazardous, but it ſeems to me to be the only expedient that is practicable, and unleſs it be attempted, the event will certainly prove fatal. I am extremely ſorry that I am not authorized to give a more favourable prognoſtic. My ſincereſt ſympathy waits on the gentleman.

Believe me to be, &c.

The patient would not ſubmit to the operation, and died in convulſions, in leſs than twenty-four hours after the return of the meſſenger.

CASE XLI.

Of a Hemicrania.

Dear SIR,

I AM favoured with your account of the farmer's wife, who has for ſix months paſt been troubled with a ſevere Hemicrania. I know not any chronic diſorder more obſtinate than that complaint. It even exceeds the ſciatica. You certainly judged right in beginning the cure with a vomit, as a foulneſs of the ſtomach is frequently the cauſe of head-achs, and it is of the greateſt conſequence, in all lingering complaints eſpecially, that the primæ viæ be preſerved

ſerved free from impurities. It would ſeem to be pretty evident, however, that in this patient the diſorder proceeds not from that origin. For, were the caſe really ſo, it is probable that the pain would have abated by the uſe of emetics.

In attempting the cure of any diſorder, the cauſe of which is involved in obſcurity, it was very wiſely adviſed by a great phyſician, that we ſhould conſider in our minds the various cauſes from which the complaint can ariſe, and endeavour to aſcertain from the hiſtory and conſtitution of the patient, the cauſe of each particular malady. I have no doubt but you would be ſatisfied with my general opinion reſpecting the caſe before us; but as I wiſh to place the matter in the cleareſt light, let us enquire with ſome attention into the ſeveral cauſes that are reputed to be productive of head-achs; for theſe and the Hemicrania differ only in local diſtinction.

One of the general cauſes, namely, a foulneſs of the ſtomach, I have already mentioned, and ſhall therefore paſs to the reſt. Theſe may be comprehended under plethora, a rarefaction of the blood, inflammation, nervous, intermittent or periodical affection, the venereal taint, and rheumatiſm.

From the account you give of our patient, there is no reaſon to ſuſpect that any of the three firſt of theſe cauſes is acceſſary to the production of the complaint; for her pulſe is neither unuſually quick nor full, and ſhe has her catamenia regularly.

You inform me that you have preſcribed the gum pills, and other hyſteric remedies, upon the ſuppoſition that the diſorder proceeded from a nervous affection. I approve of your conduct in that point. But from the quantity of theſe medicines ſhe has taken, without any effect, and the abſence of all other nervous

nervous ſymptoms, there is reaſon to conclude, that her complaint is the offſpring of another cauſe.

The next cauſe I mentioned in order, was that of an intermittent or periodical kind; and from this, alſo, the continual duration, and equable degree of the pain, ſeem juſtly to remove our ſuſpicion.

As to the venereal taint, I know not whether you have queſtioned her huſband. The interrogation would certainly not be improper. In town, I often ſuſpect complaints of this kind to be occaſioned by a venereal cauſe, and generally find my conjecture confirmed by the method of cure. But in the preſent caſe, it is more likely to be otherwiſe.

The rheumatiſm is the laſt of the general cauſes which I mentioned as productive of the Hemicrania, and is

alſo the ſource to which I am inclined to aſcribe the complaint of our patient. I own, that in this caſe my opinion is chiefly ſupported by the apparent improbability of the influence of any of the other cauſes. For you do not mention that ever ſhe was ſubject to any rheumatic diſorder; the certainty of which would add ſome weight to my concluſion. In ſearching for the origin of obſcure complaints, however, we often muſt be ſatisfied with reſting our opinion on the moſt plauſible foundation, without being too ſcrupulous in regard to the ſolution of every pathological difficulty.

Admitting the diſorder to be of the rheumatic kind, the ſeat of it ought next to be aſcertained. The left ſide of the head is the part affected; but whether the diſorder be in the membranes within the cranium, the bones, or in the integuments, is a point of which we are not certain. For I do not conſider the abſence

ſence of pain, on touching that part of the head, as a ſure criterion of the complaint being ſituated internally. The knowledge of that circumſtance, however, though it might ſomewhat affect our prognoſtic, could ſcarcely occaſion any variation in the method of cure, which, in my opinion, ought to be conducted in the following manner.

As the patient is not plethoric, bleeding in the arm may be omitted; though indeed I ſhould ſtill think it adviſeable to draw eight or ten ounces from that part. I would afterwards apply leeches to the ſide of the head affected.

It is proper that a purge be given once a week for two or three times at leaſt, and that calomel be joined to it. Afterwards, if the patient be coſtive, ſhe ought to uſe ſome laxative occaſionally.

When theſe general evacuations have been premiſed, I would propoſe that the patient's hair ſhould be cut off, and a warm plaſter applied to the ſide of the head which is affected. The gum plaſter, with a fifth or ſixth part of the epiſpaſtic, may anſwer the purpoſe. This plaſter muſt be worn for a conſiderable time. I have frequently obſerved great benefit from ſuch an application. When the hair is cut off, the patient muſt uſe a flannel cap.

This diſorder is one of thoſe in which there is little advantage from internal remedies. But it is proper that ſome of them ſhould be tried, and I would chiefly adviſe the uſe of the julep e camphor. with ſome antimonial wine.

The gentlewoman ought frequently to bathe her feet in warm water at night. She muſt guard againſt catching cold, particularly

particularly in her head. It will be proper that ſhe avoid viſcid aliments; and ſhould ſhe make daily uſe of the decoct. lignor. I would expect ſome advantage from it. Nothing farther occurs to me to write you of at preſent, but that

I am, &c.

CASE

CASE XLII.

Of the Chlorosis.

SIR,

FROM all the symptoms you mention, I am fully convinced that the disorder of Miss ----- is the chlorosis. She has in the first place, the pale cast of the countenance from which that disorder is denominated. She has also frequent heart-burns, with sometimes a nausea and vomiting, and her appetite is depraved. Besides these symptoms, which are characteristic of the disease, and others that you have enumerated, she is sensible of great lassitude, and feels a difficulty of breathing, and a palpitation of the heart, every time she uses brisk motion. Her pulse is generally quick and low, and shews her to have a small degree of feverishness.

I take

I take it for granted that her diſorder is not accompanied with the fluor albus, as you do not mention ſuch a circumſtance; and this is extremely fortunate; for in all the chlorotic cachexies that I have known to terminate fatally, the patients were debilitated by an obſtinate concomitant fluor.

This young lady's complaint I can impute to no other cauſe, than an inactive life, and perhaps a delicate conſtitution. Being as yet ſcarcely thirteen years of age, and not plethoric, an obſtruction of the menſes is not to be ſuppoſed in any degree concerned in its production.

In reſpect to the cure, which I entertain no doubt of being completed in a ſhort time, the firſt thing we are to preſcribe is an emetic of Ipecacuanha, after which I would adviſe that the young lady

lady take one or two full doſes of ſacred tincture, or any other aloetic purge. In cachectic diſorders we ought always to begin by cleanſing the primæ viæ.

After theſe evacuations ſhe muſt enter on a courſe of alterative medicines; and as ſhe is not of a plethoric habit of body we may have immediate recourſe to chalybeates. As her ſtomach is perhaps too delicate for taking them in the ſolid form, ſhe may uſe the tincture, joined with light bitters. The following will ſerve for the preſcription.

R. Rad. zedoar. calam. aromat. ana drachmas duas, cort. aurantior. ſeſcunciam, vini Liſbonenſ. libras duas. Digere per quatriduum, & colaturæ adde vini chalybeat. uncias octo. Capiat cochlear. quatuor bis in die.

I would alſo adviſe that ſhe take every night fifteen grains of the pil Rufi; or thirty

thirty drops of the following mixture, the doſe of which may be increaſed to a tea ſpoonful, provided that it proves not too laxative.

R. Elixir. proprietat, tinctur. helleb. nig. ana unciam unam. Miſce.

Should her belly, on the other hand, be too much bound, during the chalybeate courſe, it will be proper to interpoſe a laxative of rhubarb and manna; or to give a drachm of ſal polychreſt, which is an excellent remedy in all diſorders ariſing from a viſcid ſtate of the fluids.

During this courſe the young lady muſt uſe briſk exerciſe, of which that of riding on horſeback will be attended with the greateſt advantge.

In regard to diet, ſhe muſt avoid acids, and all ſorts of food that are of difficult

difficult digeſtion; and inſtead of malt liquors, uſe wine and water for her drink.

It is not improbable but the menſes may make their appearance about the time that the cure is completed. For I have ſome times obſerved that chlorotic girls, who were cured of their diſorder about the age of this young lady, menſtruated ſoon after. The medicines they uſed, being emmenagogic, probably accelerated the period of the evacuation. If that ſhould not happen ſpontaneouſly, I think it would be proper to continue the uſe of the aloetic and chalybeate remedies occaſionally for ſome time. I have nothing farther to add, but that I am, &c.

CASE

CASE XLIII.

Of a Leprous Eruption.

SIR,

I HAVE met with ſeveral ſuch caſes as that of Mr. ----, of which you ſend me an account. The eruptions, which I have obſerved to be generally greateſt on the face, were as you deſcribe, at firſt of a red colour, and afterwards ſcaled off like bran. In ſome patients, they were accompanied, or preceded, by ſwellings of the glandular parts. Two particularly had tumors in the groins, exactly reſembling buboes, and afforded room to ſuſpect a venereal taint. The tumors ſoon diſappeared, but the eruptions reſiſted a mercurial courſe. I have attempted to cure them by ſudorifics, diuretics, laxatives, the tincture of cantharides, antimonials, tar-water, &c. but all without any effect. The remedy I have found moſt ſucceſsful

in this leprous kind of diſorder, and what I would recommend to Mr. ----, is the juice of fumitory. Let him take three or four ſpoonfuls of it twice a day. It will be proper at the ſame time that he take a gentle laxative every other day, and that he abſtain from animal food. I would alſo adviſe that he go into a warm bath once or twice a week. I ſhall be glad to hear of the event,

And am, &c.

The gentleman followed the regimen above preſcribed, and was cured of the eruption in ſix weeks; only a more than ordinary fluſh was perceptible in his face for ſome time after.

CASE

CASE XLIV.

Of a Pain in the Stomach

SIR,

I HAVE peruſed your account of the reverend gentleman who complains of a rheumatiſm in his ſhoulders and arms, to which he has been ſubject for near a twelvemonth; but what gives him the moſt uneaſineſs is a pain in the ſtomach, which has afflicted him for nearly the ſame time; and for this, chiefly, he deſires my advice.

Reſpecting his hiſtory, you inform me, that he has lived always regularly, and uſed moderate exerciſe. The pain ſeizes indifferently whether the ſtomach be full or empty; but is not accompanied with evident ſigns of flatulence, at leaſt in any conſiderable degree. I ought alſo to mention, that neither the gentleman himſelf, nor his family, as

far as he knows, were ever troubled with the gout.

I am ſatisfied from theſe circumſtances, that the complaint is not of an arthritic nature; for in all the patients whom I have ſeen affected with a gouty diſorder of the ſtomach, the pain, as ſoon as it ceaſed to moleſt that organ, uſually fixed on ſome other part.

Neither does the complaint ſeem to me to derive its origin from acidities. For were that really the caſe, the pain would not return till ſome time after eating, when an acid would be produced in the ſtomach. But even the unſucceſsful uſe of abſorbents affords ſufficient evidence that the diſorder proceeds not from that cauſe.

The irregularity of the pain, in reſpect to the time of invaſion, will not permit the ſuppoſition that it is of a periodical kind. Neither does the gentleman's

man's conſtitution, which appears not to be nervous, afford room for thinking it is ſpaſmodic.

Upon the whole, I am inclined to imagine, that the complaint in our patient's ſtomach is of a rheumatic nature; and this opinion ſeems to receive confirmation from the circumſtance of the gentleman being troubled with the rheumatiſm in other parts of his body.

Though the diſorder now under our conſideration be not of the acute kind, yet as the patient is ſomewhat plethoric, it will be proper to begin the cure by drawing ſome blood from the arm.

The remedies in this caſe are in general the ſame that are ſuitable in every chronic rheumatiſm; and the pain of the ſtomach, as well as that of the arm, is to be cured by promoting perſpiration, the defect of which proves the cauſe of viſcidity or acrimony in the fluids. It

will be of great advantage for that purpoſe, that the gentleman wear a flannel ſhirt; for I have frequently obſerved, that the habitual uſe of that expedient, eſpecially if warm frictions be performed every night, contributes more to the cure of the rheumatiſm than diaphoretic medicines alone. Theſe, however, are not to be neglected; and what I would chiefly adviſe of that kind is, a decoction of the bur-dock root; by which I have lately cured ſeveral patients who were greatly diſtreſſed with the chronic rheumatiſm. In ſome caſes I have ordered half an ounce, or three drachms, of ſpir. minderer. to be added to a quart of the decoction, which was the quantity daily uſed; and I think the ſame method may be practiſed with this gentleman. I would likewiſe recommend to him to take every morning one or two tea-ſpoonfuls of white muſtard-ſeed, which is an excellent attenuant in this complaint, and particularly beneficial where

where the fluids are in any degree tainted with a ſcorbutic acrimony.

During this courſe, it may perhaps be neceſſary that he take occaſionally ſome laxative: a ſpoonful of the tinct. ſacra may anſwer the purpoſe.

I have nothing more to adviſe at preſent, but that the gentleman continue to ride daily on horſeback; and that he avoid viſcid aliments, and catching cold.

Should he not ſpeedily recover by the uſe of theſe means, I beg you will inform me, and believe me to be, &c.

CASE XLV.

Of the Scrophula.

Dear SIR,

I AM favoured with yours reſpecting Lord ----'s ſon, who ſince his recovery from the meaſles, which he had about four months ago, diſcovers a tendency to glandular ſwellings of the neck, ſome of which are conſiderably advanced. I am much afraid that they are of the ſcrophulous kind, and will prove very difficult to be cured.

In regard to the cauſe of the complaint, I ſuſpect it to proceed from the dregs of his late diſorder, which perhaps have not been ſufficiently purged off. It may now perhaps be too late to retrieve the error, but ſtill I think it muſt be attempted. For as the tumors have increaſed quickly both in number and ſize, it would ſeem as if there were a great quantity

quantity of vitiated humours in the body, which require to be diſcharged. Without premiſing bleeding, as he does not appear to be plethoric, I would therefore adviſe, that for a few weeks he take a doſe of phyſic once in the four or five days. The ſpecies hieræ, or the pulvis cornachini, is the moſt ſuitable for the purpoſe. In caſes of this kind, I would always either join calomel with the phyſic, or give ſome grains of it the preceding night; for there is nothing more effectually attenuates the lentor of the fluids, and deterges the glands, than that medicine.

On the intermediate days, let him take every forenoon and afternoon a ſcruple of the æthiops antimonialis, which may be waſhed down with a few ounces of a decoction of the woods in lime water.

In ſuch ſcrophulous tumors as ariſe from a viſcid ſtate of the blood, I always

ways prefer internal remedies to topical applications; for till the ſtrumous diſpoſition be corrected by alterative medicines, we never can expect a radical cure of the diſorder. My advice would therefore be, to inſiſt at preſent in rectifying the habit of body; and when that is accompliſhed, we can turn our attention with more ſucceſs to the diſcuſſion or ſuppuration of the tumors. As you have prohibited the uſe of viſcid aliments, buttery ſauces, and malt liquors, and alſo enjoined proper exerciſe, I have nothing to add on the article of regimen, and ſhall therefore conclude with aſſuring you that I am, &c.

P. S. I had almoſt forgot to congratulate you on the marriage of your amiable and accompliſhed daughter. I hope to have the pleaſure of ſeeing the young couple in town the enſuing winter.

CASE

CASE XLVI.

Of Worms.

SIR,

FROM what you mention of Mr. ----- who, along with many troubleſome ſymptoms, complains chiefly of a vertigo and an unuſual diſpoſition to fainting, I am fully of opinion that theſe diſorders are not what is called idiopathic, and that the cauſe of them is not ſeated in the brain. I never found myſelf miſtaken in ſuch a concluſion, when theſe complaints of the head appeared in conjunction with others of the abdominal viſcera, and thoſe too ſuch as are deſcribed to exiſt in this patient. For I look on the hiccup, vomitings, colic pains, looſeneſs, the diſtenſion of the belly, the dry cough, and the various circumſtances you mention, as affording evident proof that the animal

animal œconomy is diſordered by the irritation of worms.

It is therefore my opinion, that the uſe of cephalic and cordial medicines ought to be perſevered in no longer, but that recourſe ſhould immediately be had to powerful anthelmintics, as what alone are calculated to procure a total removal of the complaints. I would adviſe that he begin the cure with the following purge, which may be repeated occaſionally for ſome time.

R. Pulv. rhei ſcrupulum unum, calomelanos ſemiſcrupulum, ſyr. com. q. ſ. f. bolus, mane ſumendus.

On the intermediate days of purgation, let him take a doſe of the following powders twice a day.

R. Flor. tanaceti, ſem. ſantonic. ana drachmam unam, pulv. ſtanni

ſtanni drachmas duas, ſal. martis drachmam unam. Miſce, & formetur pulvis in chartas duodecim.

Outward applications have, in my opinion, ſo little effect againſt worms, or at leaſt are ſo much inferior in their operation to other remedies, that I ſeldom order them except to young children, who cannot be prevailed with to take medicines internally.

I make no doubt but by continuing this courſe for a few weeks, the gentleman will be entirely relieved from all his complaints.

I am, &c.

By the uſe of theſe medicines four worms were voided, of the long and round kind; the ſmalleſt of which meaſured about ten inches, and the largeſt near three feet. On this evacuation the complaint entirely diſappeared.

CASE

CASE XLVII.

Of an Aſthma.

SIR,

THE diſorder of Colonel ----- is undoubtedly an humoural aſthma; the joint effect of a debilitated conſtitution and an advanced time of life. A radical cure of the complaint can ſcarcely be expected in theſe circumſtances. Indeed in any age whatever, a relaxation of the lungs, eſpecially ſuch as has been of long continuance, almoſt always baffles the utmoſt efforts of our ſkill. For the delicate ſtructure of the veſicles of that organ renders them eaſily ſuſceptible of a degree of diſtention that in a great meaſure deſtroys their contractile power.

The principal indications of cure which we have to purſue in this caſe are, to attenuate the pituitous matter that

that oppreſſes the lungs, and diſcharge it by ſome of the excretions. A vomit is certainly very efficacious for both theſe purpoſes; but the hazard of adminiſtering it during a great difficulty of reſpiration renders other expedients more eligible. I would therefore propoſe that the colonel ſhould make uſe of the following pills, which will not only diſſolve the lentor of the humours, but make a derivation of them to the inteſtinal canal.

R. Sapon. hiſpan. drachmas duas, gum. ammoniac. aloes ſocotrin. rad. ſcillæ ana drachmam unam, ſyr. com. q. ſ. f. maſſa pilular. e cujus unaquaque drachm. formentur pil. duodecim. Capiat æger tres vel quatuor bis in die.

If theſe pills ſhould not keep his belly ſufficiently open, it will be proper that he take a ſpoonful of tinctura ſacra occaſionally at bed-time; and if the breathing

breathing be at any time particularly difficult, attended with coſtiveneſs and flatulence in the abdomen, as often happens and greatly aggravates the complaint, I would adviſe that a laxative and carminative glyſter be immediately injected.

When the aſthma is accompanied with want of ſleep, I never ſcruple to order the elixir aſthmatic. at night, only taking care to ſupport the excretions according as they appear to be diminiſhed by the uſe of that medicine.

In reſpect to regimen, there is a neceſſity that the colonel avoid malt liquors, and all ſorts of meat that are of a glutinous or flatulent nature. Whatever too much increaſes the circulation muſt alſo be abſtained from. A light ſolid diet of chicken, veal, or rabbit, will be the moſt ſuitable, with white-wine and water for drink. Coffee, provided that it proves not flatulent, is in this caſe,

caſe, I think, preferable to tea. I need not mention, that in bed he ought to lay with his head pretty much elevated, for facilitating reſpiration, as that is an expedient which nature ſpontaneouſly dictates. I have nothing more to ſay, than that I ſhall be extremely deſirous of hearing that the colonel's uneaſy ſituation is much alleviated by theſe means.

I am, &c.

CASE XLVIII.

Of the Hyſteric Colic.

SIR,

YOU inform me that Miſs ----- who is of a nervous conſtitution, has for ſome time been troubled at intervals with a ſevere pain about the pit of the ſtomach, attended with a vomiting of bilious matter. When you was preſent during one of the paroxyſms, you obſerved that her pulſe was very weak, and that ſhe was ſeized with great deſpondency. All theſe are characteriſtic ſigns of the nature of her diſorder, which is evidently the hyſteric colic. Many more inexcuſable errors have been committed in the diagnoſtics of diſeaſes, than in ſuppoſing worms to be the genuine cauſe of the complaint, which I think you confeſs was the opinion you firſt entertained. The vomiting indeed, and I may add the deſpondency, are often ſymptoms

ſymptoms of worms, as well as of the hyſteric colic; but when the former of theſe cauſes exiſts, the caſe is generally accompanied with other ſigns, that ſerve to aſcertain its true origin.

However the two diſeaſes may ſometimes bear a reſemblance to each other in their ſymptoms, yet in what reſpects the method of cure they are totally different. For whereas in the caſe of worms, proper purgatives, occaſionally adminiſtered, are ſerviceable; in the hyſteric colic, all evacuations are prejudicial, and tend to exaſperate the diſorder, by rendering the body more irritable.

I have frequently attempted the cure of the hyſteric colic by means of fœtid medicines given internally, but without the ſucceſs which might be expected from antiſpaſmodics in a diſorder depending on irritation. For I do not recollect one inſtance of the hyſteric colic being cured by any other remedy than

opiates. I would therefore recommend the uſe of ſome of theſe in any future paroxyſm of the diſorder, with which the lady may be ſeized. The quantity of the opiate neceſſary to vanquiſh the complaint, will be found variable in different perſons and circumſtances; wherefore the beſt rule of practice is, to give a moderate doſe at once, and afterwards to repeat the medicine in a leſs quantity every half hour, till the complaint ceaſes.

In order to prevent the return of this troubleſome diſorder, the lady ought to undergo a courſe of the bath and chalybeates in the intervals, and ride pretty frequently on horſeback. For it is by ſtrengthening the nervous ſyſtem, that the complaint is to be radically cured. In the mean time, ſhe ought to be particularly attentive to the regularity of the menſtrual diſcharge; as it would appear that the diſorder is ſometimes excited by that cauſe. It would be proper for

this

this purpoſe, that ſhe take fifteen grains of the pil. Rufi every night for a week before the periods, and that ſhe ſometimes bathe her feet in warm water.

With reſpect to the queſtion, whether it is probable that the young lady would live more free from her complaint in a married than a ſingle ſtate? I cannot take upon me to determine. The bearing of children is certainly debilitating to a delicate conſtitution. But if her ſituation otherwiſe were perfectly happy, perhaps that circumſtance would be balanced by the obſtructions ſo incident to unmarried women, and which prove the cauſe of ſo many female complaints. But the determination of that queſtion depending on contingencies, it is properly not an object of enquiry. I ſincerely wiſh ſucceſs to your endeavours in behalf of the young lady,

And am, &c.

CASE XLIX.

Of an Apoplexy,

SIR,

I AM extremely ſorry to be informed that Admiral ----- has lately had a fit of an apoplexy; and the more ſo, as there is reaſon to apprehend, from his conſtitution and time of life, that he may afterwards be expoſed to its attack. In order to prevent ſuch a conſequence, it will be neceſſary that we attend to the cauſe and nature of the diſeaſe.

In enquiring into the cauſe of an apoplexy, when I obſerve no circumſtance that can favour the ſuppoſition of the diſorder being excited by ſympathy, I would always be inclined to conſider it entirely as idiopathic. For it would be abſurd to aſcribe an effect to any cauſe that is perfectly latent, and of whoſe exiſtence we have no knowledge from any

any obvious ſymptom. Upon this principle I conclude, that the cauſe of the admiral's complaint is ſeated in the head. Let us now enquire what that cauſe really is.

An apoplexy is generally imagined to proceed from an obſtruction of the paſſage of the nervous fluid into the muſcles of voluntary motion. This obſtruction may be occaſioned by the quantity or viſcidity of the fluids, by any preſſure on the brain, and perhaps by ſpaſms on the origin of the nerves. The laſt of theſe cauſes, however, as never being evident to the ſenſes, muſt be conſidered as entirely conjectural.

The conſtitutions in which the fluids exceed in quantity have been reduced to two general kinds; namely, the ſanguine, and the ſerous; and into theſe two ſpecies are apoplexies alſo diſtinguiſhed. The queſtion then is, to determine the conſtitution of our patient,

and thereby aſcertain to which of the fluids the diſorder ought to be aſcribed, on the idea of its being cauſed by ſuperabundance. You who have the opportunity of examining the admiral's pulſe, can beſt judge whether or not the diſorder be occaſioned by a redundancy of blood. Though the veſſels may be equally diſtended by the globular and ſerous parts of the fluids, yet we know, that when the latter predominates too much in proportion, the pulſe, though full, has never that firmneſs and elaſticity which attend a redundancy of the globular part of the blood. Beſides, when the fluids are thin and ſerous, the heat of the body is always leſs than in the oppoſite condition. I take no criterion from the complexion of the face, becauſe I think it is often fallacious. For my own part, I am of opinion that the admiral is not plethoric, but that his conſtitution rather inclines to the ſurcharge of a ſerous colluvies; and for this opinion my reaſons are founded

on

on his hiſtory. Ever ſince his return from the expedition, his health has been more precarious than formerly; he has been almoſt conſtantly ſubject to the chronic rheumatiſm; and his habit of body, though not reduced, is evidently more lax than before. If, after examining his conſtitution by the few general rules abovementioned, you find the reaſons on which I found my opinion to be corroborated by your own obſervation, I make no doubt but your ſentiments will correſpond with mine in reſpect to the cauſe of the diſorder; but this, indeed, you have already teſtified, by the manner in which you treated him.

It ſeems unneceſſary to produce any arguments for eſtabliſhing the opinion of there being a viſcidity of the fluids in our preſent patient; for that is a circumſtance which generally accompanies a languid circulation of watery fluids.

I have

I have been led into this tedious digreſſion, from a deſire of elucidating the principle by which we are to direct our endeavours for preventing a return of the apoplexy. Our buſineſs is ſolely to preſcribe ſuch a regimen, as may guard againſt a redundancy or viſcidity of the ſerous fluids. Theſe ends will be moſt effectually anſwered by promoting the digeſtions and diſcharges. Here then we may call to our aſſiſtance ſtomachic medicines and the bark; of a tincture of which I would have the admiral take a glaſs twice a day, at the uſual hours. Nothing contributes more towards ſtrengthening the conſtitution than the uſe of chalybeate waters; but, in the caſe of an apoplectic perſon, they are not adviſeable, on account of the heat and rarefaction which they produce.

The diſcharge that is moſt apt to be deficient is that by the inteſtines, which muſt be ſupported by the occaſional uſe of

of aloetic laxatives, or the bitter tincture of rhubarb.

Temperance in diet, and moderate exercise, are of great advantage in promoting both the digestions and discharges; and for that reason, the admiral ought to consider them as one of the principal objects of his attention. He must abstain from spirituous liquors, and too much indulgence in wine. His meat should be of easy digestion, and thoroughly done; and his supper particularly ought to be light, in respect both to quantity and quality. He must also avoid the inclemencies of the air, and should be careful to lay in bed with his head always a little raised.

Besides the regimen above prescribed, I would advise that an issue be opened, either between the shoulders or in the leg. For it is an expedient of great advantage in preventing disorders that arise from a serous colluvies.

By

By a ſtrict obſervance of theſe injunctions, I hope that the admiral may live free from a return of the fit; but ſhould it unfortunately recur, it muſt be treated in the ſame judicious manner as before, viz. by ſtimulating applications externally, a vomit, purgatives, and acrid glyſters; forbearing to bleed, which, in a plethoric conſtitution would be indiſpenſibly requiſite, but in the caſe of this reſpectable gentleman would undoubtedly prove fatal. It is my earneſt deſire, that the means may be ſucceſsfully uſed for preſerving a life ſo univerſally valued, and ſo uſeful to the publick.

I am, &c.

CASE

CASE L.

Of a Pain in the left Hypochondrium.

SIR,

I HAVE been favoured with your letter concerning the biſhop of----'s ſon, a youth of twelve years of age, who lately beginning to ride on horſe-back, complains of a pain in the left hypochondrium, of which he is ſenſible only when he uſes that exerciſe. You inform me, that he has been too much addicted to a ſedentary life, and was a few years ago extremely liable to the colic. He does not feel any weight in the part affected, but a diſtention of it is ſometimes perceptible. His pulſe is natural, and he is rather of a coſtive habit.

From all theſe circumſtances I am of opinion, that the pain of which he complains proceeds from a flatulent diſtention of the bowels, particularly the colon;

ſion; and the reaſon of the pain being felt only in the time of riding is, that, by the concuſſion received from that exerciſe, the ſides of the part affected are irregularly compreſſed, and the ſpaſmodic conſtriction which ſhuts up the included air not immediately relaxing, the fibres of the inteſtine ſuffer greater dilatation than at other times.

For the cure of this complaint, there is really nothing ſo effectual as the continuance of the very exerciſe which produces it. Riding on horſeback remarkably ſtrengthens the bowels, and guards them againſt the attack of flatulent and ſpaſmodic affections. I am certain, that, when the young gentleman has been a little accuſtomed to that healthy exerciſe, the pain, which at preſent it excites, will entirely vaniſh.

I do not think that any thing elſe is neceſſary for extirpating the complaint; only it will be proper that he uſe a laxative

tive of rhubarb occaſionally, while the coſtive diſpoſition remains.

I am, &c.

CASE LI.

Of an Immoderate Flux of the Menſes.

SIR,

I HAVE this moment received your letter by expreſs, concerning the Ducheſs of ----- who has been ſeized with a return of her menſes almoſt a fortnight before the natural period, and is apprehenſive of an immoderate diſcharge. You inform me, that for a week preceding ſhe had rode much on horſeback, and generally danced in the evenings. Her pulſe being ſomewhat full, you have blooded her in the arm, and propoſe adminiſtering the pulvis ſtypticus, and laudanum at night.

I ap-

I approve of your having drawn ſome blood from her grace's arm, as her pulſe was full; though I am of opinion at the ſame time that the fulneſs does not proceed from a real plethora, but merely from a rarefaction of the blood, occaſioned by much exerciſe, and the heat of the weather. Even in that view, however, a little bleeding was proper, in order to abate the rarefaction.

With reſpect to the pulvis ſtypticus and laudanum, I do not think that either of them is particularly indicated in this caſe. For the powder is chiefly adapted to hæmorrhages proceeding from a laxity of the uterine veſſels, and the laudanum to thoſe that ariſe from irritation. It is true that the powder is alſo ſerviceable in too great thinneſs of the blood, which is admitted to be the proximate cauſe of her grace's complaint; but then it is in ſuch a thinneſs as is produced by a relaxation of the veſſels, and not ſo much in that

which

which is occaſioned by heat and motion; the moſt ſuitable remedies for which are cooling medicines, which at any rate ought certainly, in caſes of rarefaction, to precede the uſe of aſtringents. I would therefore adviſe, that her grace ſhould make uſe of an emulſion of the cold ſeeds, to which a little gum arabic may be added. A tea-cup-ful of it, drank every hour or two, will greatly allay the rarefaction of the blood. Should her grace take a few ſpoonfuls of the tinctura roſar. alternately with the emulſion, it might be of advantage. And I would have no objection againſt adding a ſmall quantity of nitre to each of them, ſo as it did not affect her grace's ſtomach.

If ſhe complains of any gripes, or has a tendency to a looſeneſs, it will be proper to give ſome mild purgative, as tamarinds, or lenitive electuary; for I have ſometimes had reaſon to ſuſpect that uterine hæmorrhages were partly excited

by crudities in the bowels, or at leaſt were rendered more violent and of longer duration by that cauſe.

It is highly proper that her grace lay in a ſupine poſture, and be kept as quiet as poſſible, which I preſume you have already enjoined. I think it adviſeable, that ſhe make uſe of a mattraſs rather than a feather-bed, as it will keep her loins and whole body much cooler, and thereby aſſiſt in counteracting the rarefaction, which is the cauſe of the diſorder.

Should the flux continue after there is ground to imagine that the rarefaction of the blood is abated, I ſhould in that caſe agree with you as to the propriety of having recourſe to the pulv. ſtypticus; but it is much better to delay the uſe of ſuch medicines as conſtrict the veſſels, till the cauſe of their diſtention is entirely removed. In reſpect to laudanum, it would likewiſe be improper till the turgency

turgency of the veſſels is diminiſhed, as it has an evident effect in increaſing the rarefaction of the fluids. It might afterwards perhaps be uſed with advantage, if her grace appeared reſtleſs, and there was any reaſon for ſuſpecting that the hæmorrhage was ſupported by irritation.

I entertain no doubt but the complaint will ſoon be removed by the cooling remedies above preſcribed. But her grace muſt avoid dancing for ſome time. For nothing has a greater effect in occaſioning a relapſe of that diſorder.

I am, &c.

By the uſe of theſe remedies, and keeping cool, her grace recovered in a few days.

CASE LII.

Of a Stone in the Gall-bladder.

SIR,

RESpecting the caſe of the worthy clergyman concerning whom you have wrote me, I am of opinion that the obtuſe pain in the right hypochondrium, of which he complains, proceeds from a ſtone in the gall-bladder; for the ſeat of the pain, as you deſcribe it, is exactly that part. While the ſtone remains in the gall-bladder, the ſigns of its exiſtence are ſo few and obſcure, that it is impoſſible we can pretend to certainty in ſuch a diagnoſtic. The patient, it ſeems, is ſenſible of little or no weight in the part affected, which muſt be allowed to be one circumſtance againſt the probability of my opinion. But I have known ſeveral caſes of ſtones being diſcharged from the gall-bladder, where the ſymptom of which had ſcarcely been per-

perceptible. That, you know, muſt depend on the ſize and ſolidity of the ſtone, which are extremely variable.

My chief reaſon for imagining it to be a concretion in the gall-bladder, rather than a rheumatic pain, or a tumor from obſtruction, is, that the gentleman is moſt ſenſible of the complaint when he uſes briſk exerciſe. The ſame effect might no doubt happen from a tumor, on account of the greater agitation of the viſcera during the time of motion. But, in dubious caſes, I always think it is more rational to ſuſpect a complaint to be of that kind which is moſt frequent and natural to the part of the body in which it appears to be ſeated, than to ſuppoſe that it proceeds from a general cauſe that is equally incidental to other parts. This is judging by probability; and while we follow ſuch a rule in our enquiries, we ſhall certainly be leſs liable to commit miſtakes. It is not unlikely however, that the cauſe of the com-

plaint will ſoon become more evident, by the ſtone being protruded into the cyſtic duct, and from thence into the inteſtines. If that event ſhould happen, a jaundice will be the natural conſequence, and on the ceſſation of that diſorder, the biliary concretion may be found diſcharged with the fæces.

Proceeding on this idea of the cauſe of the gentleman's complaint, the indication of cure would be, to diſſolve the biliary concretion. But ſorry I am, that this problem has never yet been ſucceſsfuly reſolved, ſo far as I know. Various medicines have been propoſed for this purpoſe, without the deſired effect; and in regard to ſtones in the gall-bladder, we are ſtill left to the proſecution of only two intentions in practice; which are, either to prevent the formation of ſuch concretions, or to expel them when formed. The reverend gentleman may perhaps be very properly a ſubject for both theſe medicinal purſuits. He certainly is for

the

the former; as, unleſs the habit of body be altered, a diſpoſition towards the breeding of gall-ſtones, when once it is contracted, continues for the moſt part through life.

In order to prevent the formation or increaſe of ſtones in the gall-bladder, the intention is generally admitted to be, that of reſolving the viſcidity of the fluids; in which, it is probable, the tendency to concretion exiſts. In this caſe, therefore, the uſe of chalybeate waters is ſtrongly indicated; as they invigorate the action of the ſolids, and by that means preſerve the blood from the pituitous tenacity, which it contracts in a languid ſtate of the circulation. I do not ſuggeſt the propriety of this expedient from theory, though I am convinced that a certain degree of attention in practice is always due to the ſpeculative principles of the ſciences. My opinion

of the utility of chalybeate waters is founded on experience; and wherever I have preſcribed them to patients who were diſpoſed to biliary concretions, I found that the production of theſe calculous ſubſtances; was either entirely prevented for ſome time, or at leaſt that their increaſe was very conſiderably retarded. I would therefore adviſe, that the reverend gentleman ſhould have recourſe to ſome of the ſpa's of that kind; from the uſe of which, I am fully preſuaded, he will reap great advantage, reſpecting the prevention of biliary complaints.

With regard to the ſecond intention above mentioned, which was, to expel the calculous concretions, it is a ſtep which I think moſt eligible to leave to the operation of nature. We can never have any certainty that the ſtone is capable of paſſing from the gall-bladder through the ducts, without exciting violent perturbations in the animal œconomy; and we endeavour ſoon enough to forward

forward its tranſition, when there are evident ſymptoms of its having already entered on the paſſage. Should this happen to be the caſe with our patient, which is not improbable, there will then be great occaſion for your aſſiſtance; and you may perhaps be under the neceſſity of putting into practice all the expedients which are found to be uſeful for facilitating the progreſs of the concretion in its route. Theſe are, bleeding, vomits, the ſemicupium, and opiates; which reſpectively either relax the biliary ducts, or promote the deſcent of the concretions. But I need not at preſent inſiſt on this ſubject. All that we have now to do is, to preſcribe ſuch a regimen to the patient as ſeems the moſt ſuitable for preventing the increaſe of his complaint. For that purpoſe, I think, that a courſe of chalybeate water, as has been already mentioned, is highly adviſeable. The gentleman ought alſo to uſe moderate exerciſe, and avoid aliments that are of difficult digeſtion, as

what,

what, by increaſing the viſcidity of the fluids, may tend to an augmentation of the complaint.

If the gentleman be of a coſtive habit, as is generally the caſe with thoſe who have a viſcidity of the biliary ſecretion, it would be proper that he make uſe of ſome laxative occaſionally; and for that purpoſe the following pills may anſwer.

R. Sapon. hiſpan. drachmas duas, aloes ſocotrin. drach. unam. elixir. proprietat. q. ſ. f. maſſa pilul. formand. in pil. gr. quinque.

Capiat tres vel quatuor hora ſomni cum alvus non reſpondebit.

I ſhall add no more but that,

I am, &c.

The

The event in a ſhort time confirmed, that the cauſe of this gentleman's complaint was concretions in the gall-bladder; for he was ſeized with a jaundice, and at the concluſion of it voided ſome ſtones.

CASE LIII.

Of the Fever of Child-bed Women.

Dear SIR,

I WOULD with great pleaſure have anſwered your requeſt, reſpecting the fever of child-bed women, which has been ſo frequent in town this ſeaſon, thoughy ou had not ſignified, as a circumſtance to induce my compliance, that you are particularly deſirous of information on that ſubject, on account of the intention of the Ducheſs of ----- to lay in at her country ſeat.

I am

I am confident you are so well acquainted with the nature of this fever, that I need not enter on a particular detail of its history; and shall therefore only give it as my opinion, that the child-bed fever is a primary, and not a secondary disease, as has been imagined by many physicians. For I have frequently observed it exist, unattended by any of the accidents from which it has been supposed to derive its origin.

The earlier stage of this fever is generally accompanied with signs of inflammation, which seems to have its principal seat about the region of the uterus; but when the disease has continued for a few days, the inflammatory symptoms for the most part subside, and the fever assumes a more putrid appearance; at which time, if not sooner, a bilious or putrid diarrhæa attacks the patient, and usually continues to the end of the disease.

This

This fever is generally of very uncertain duration; the patient ſometimes dying within twenty-four hours from the commencement of the diſeaſe; but the eleventh day is the period at which it is moſt commonly determined.

The criſis of the child-bed fever ſeems not to depend in any degree upon what is called the concoction of the humours: for the cure is gradually performed, either by a ſpontaneous evacuation from the ſtomach, or a tedious diſcharge of porraceous matter by ſtool. The ſlow progreſs of theſe excretions, however, render the termination of this fever equally fatal in weak conſtitutions with thoſe which are decided by an alteration produced in the febrile matter. For where the patients have not ſufficient ſtrength to bear the evacuations for ſome time, they generally ſink under the diſeaſe. But there is always reaſon to hope for a happy iſſue of the fever, when the lochia return to their natural ſtate, when the

the ſwelling and tenderneſs of the abdoman decline, and a diáphoreſis ſenſibly breaks forth.

This fever being accompanied with ſymptoms both of an inflammatory and putrid nature, the method of cure requires to be varied according as the diſeaſe appears to incline to one or other of theſe morbid diſpoſitions. In ſome patients, bleeding is abſolutely neceſſary; in others it is extremely prejudicial. In reſpect to this evacuation, therefore, we muſt always be determined by the ſtrength of the patient, and the reſpective prevalence of inflammatory or putrid ſymptoms. I ſhall briſly relate the general method of cure which I follow in the treatment of this fever.

When I am called ſo early as the beginning of the fever, while the rigor that introduces it ſtill continues, my firſt endeavour is as much as poſſible to ſhorten and mitigate that period. For I have frequently

frequently obſerved, that the ſucceeding diſeaſe greatly correſponds in its progreſs to the violence and duration of the firſt ſtage. Suppoſing then, as I have already ſaid, that I am called at the very acceſs of the fever, I preſcribe a free uſe of warm diluting drinks, with ſometimes a few drops of volatile ſpirits, or a diſh of warm ſack whey, that is not made too ſtrong. The proper rule for adjuſting the ſtandard of theſe diaphoretic remedies is, to adapt them always to the pulſe and ſtrength of the patient; ſo that the weaker theſe are found to be, a greater latitude is allowable in the uſe of cordial medicines.

When the hot fit arrives, I generally order an emollient injection; which I adviſe to be repeated frequently through the progreſs of the fever. I look on them as highly advantageous in two lights. One is, that they promote the evacuation by ſtool, which appears to me to be in a great meaſure the criſis of the diſ-

diſeaſe; and the other, that they have the effect of a fomentation to the uterus, and the neighbouring parts; for which reaſon they are particularly indicated when the lochia are ſuppreſſed. It is certain however, that great care is neceſſary in adminiſtering injections in this diſeaſe, on account of the tenderneſs of the parts.

I afterwards proceed to what I think the grand indication in the diſeaſe, and indeed in moſt other fevers at the beginning: that is, to cleanſe the Primæ Viæ both by vomit and ſtool. For this purpoſe, I make uſe of tartar emetic, which I generally preſcribe in the following manner.

R. Tartar. emtic. gr. duo; diſſolve in aq. fontan. uncias quatuor.

Of

Of this ſolution I preſcribe two ſpoonfuls to be taken immediately, and one every two hours after till it begins to operate. But ſhould its operation not be productive of ſome mitigation of the fever, I make no ſcruple of repeating it occaſionally; proportioning the quantity of the doſe to the ſtrength of the patient.

When the force of the fever has been partly ſubdued by this remedy, I then have recourſe to the ſaline draughts, which I order to be continued through the courſe of the diſeaſe; adding to them ſometimes a few grains of rhubarb, eſpecially towards the decline of the diſorder. I deſire that the patient may all along drink freely of diluting liquors, and be kept from every thing that is heating after the rigor at the beginning has ceaſed; unleſs a weakneſs of the pulſe and faintneſs ſhould render the uſe of ſome cordial medicine neceſſary. Relaxing fomentations alſo ought to be

frequently applied to the belly while pains continue to indicate them.

This imperfect account of my treatment of the fever of child-bed women might be considered as too general, if addreſſed to any perſon of leſs experience in practice than yourſelf. But on the preſent occaſion, a longer letter would have been ſuperfluous; and ſhort as this one is, I hope it is ſufficient to convince you with how much pleaſure I comply with your requeſt, and that I always

am, &c.

CASE

CASE LIV.

Of an Aſthma.

SIR,

I AM favoured with your account of Mr. ----- a captain of a veſſel, who has complained, for near theſe two years paſt, of a difficulty of breathing, which ſeized him at irregular intervals, but is now become more frequent in its attacks, and increaſes likewiſe in violence and duration. It is repreſented to ſeize him always ſuddenly, without any obvious alteration happening in the air. When the paroxyſm continues long, he uſually expectorates a ſmall quantity of pituitous frothy matter at the cloſe of it. He has no difficulty of breathing in the intervals, but is much troubled with flatulence in his ſtomach, and watchfulneſs.

You inform me that he has uſed various pectoral medicines without any effect; ſuch as the pil. ſcillitic. garlic, expreſſio milleped. oxymel pectoral, &c. It is my opinion, that the gentleman's complaint is not of ſuch a nature as indicates the uſe of theſe attenuating medicines; nay, that it may even be exaſperated by them. For it appears evident, that his aſthma is of the nervous ſort; in which I never obſerved any benefit reſult from thoſe remedies which are purely of the inciding and detergent kind. If they ever are adminiſtered with advantage, it is at the end of the paroxyſm, in order to promote the diſcharge of the ſerous humours, which have tranſuded into the pulmonary veſicles during the preceding difficulty of reſpiration. But when uſed even on that occaſion, they ought to be given in a ſmall quantity at a time; otherwiſe they ſometimes excite ſuch an irritation as is apt

apt to produce a paroxyſm of the diſorder.

The medicines I would recommend in the paroxyſms of this complaint are, thoſe of the nervous and ſedative kind; to which the gentleman ought to have immediate recourſe as ſoon as the fit begins; or, what would be better if he could judge of that circumſtance, whenever he expects its approach. I am perſuaded he will find great benefit from the following pills.

R. Aſ. fœtid. drachm. unam, opii gr. ſex, miſce, & formetur maſſa in pil. duodecim.

Let him take one of theſe pills at the approach of his complaint, and in caſe he ſhould find no effect from that quantity, which I am convinced however that he will, he might take another in about an hour after. This medicine will diſpel

the flatulence in his ſtomach, as well as abate the aſthmatic paroxyſm.

It will alſo be of ſervice, that the gentleman keep his feet in warm water during the fit, a practice which I have often known to be highly advantageous in ſpaſmodic diſorders.

A bliſter applied between the ſhoulders, or even on the legs, has likewiſe conſiderable efficacy againſt complaints of this kind.

What I have already mentioned are but palliative remedies, calculated merely to abate the paroxyſm, and not to correct the diſpoſition which produces it. To effect a radical cure of the gentleman's complaint, it would be neceſſary to ſtrengthen the whole nervous ſyſtem, from a relaxation of which I am of opinion that his diſorder entirely proceeds. To fulfil that indication, however, is a matter of the greateſt difficulty. But if

we

we cannot expect all the ſucceſs that we deſire in our endeavours towards that end, we ought at leaſt to recommend the uſe of ſuch means as are beſt adapted for attaining it. We know that nothing is of ſo much advantage for ſtrengthening a relaxed conſtitution, as a proper regulation of the non-naturals. Among theſe, the article of diet is very conſpicuous, and requires attention both to the quantity and the kinds of aliment made uſe of. It will be proper, therefore, that the gentleman reſtrict himſelf chiefly to ſolid meats; for a vegetable diet always proves flatulent to perſons whoſe bowels are weak. From fleſh that is ſalted, however, he certainly ought to abſtain; as well as from cheeſe, paſtry-work, and whatever is of difficult digeſtion. Malt liquors, as being flatulent, are improper for his drink; and inſtead of them he ought to uſe wine and water, or water with which a little brandy or rum is mixed.

The uſe of proper exerciſe is alſo of the greateſt conſequence for our purpoſe; and the gentleman ought to ride daily eight or ten miles on horſeback. Even walking will be found beneficial, if not protracted to ſuch a degree as to occaſion fatigue. By all means he muſt avoid a too ſedentary kind of life.

The watchfulneſs with which he is troubled, is a circumſtance that will greatly counteract all our endeavours for reſtoring his ſtrength; and yet it is ſuch a ſymptom as can be effectually removed only by the ſame means which are recommended for the radical cure of his diſorder. For the habitual uſe of opiates is far from being adviſeable in nervous complaints.

Beſides the regulation of the non-naturals, there are alſo medicines that prove highly advantageous for ſtrengthening

ening the conſtitution. At the head of this claſs I rank chalybeate waters; a courſe of which I would earneſtly recommend to the gentleman, as one of the beſt prophylactic remedies for his complaint. I would likewiſe adviſe him to the uſe of a light tincture of the bark and bitters, of which he ſhould take a table ſpoonful, mixed with three or four ſpoonfuls of water, twice a day, when the ſtomach is moſt empty. Where digeſtion is weak, and the conſtitution nervous, I frequently preſcribe the following, which I think will be uſeful in his caſe.

R. Cort. Peruvian. uncias duas, aurantior. unc. unam, ſem. fœnicul. dulc. drach. unam, infunde per quatuor vel ſex dies in ſp. vin. Gallic. lib. duobus, & colaturæ adde ſp. lavendul. comp. unc. duas.

To

To prevent flatulence and coſtiveneſs, which are always the conſequence of a weak ſtate of the bowels, it will be proper that the captain take occaſionally a ſpoonful of the bitter tincture of rhubarb or the ſacred tincture, at bed-time. It is of great importance in all diſorders, and eſpecially thoſe of the nervous kind, that the belly be kept regular and ſufficiently open.

Perhaps it might prove of ſome advantage, to ſmell to fetid medicines, ſuch as aſa fœtid. and tinctura fuliginis, during the paroxyſm; as by that means their effluvia would be conveyed directly to the lungs. But I leave this to be determined by the experiment, if it ſhould be made.

Whether or not we ſucceed in attempting to reſtore the captain's conſti-

tution

tution to a great degree of vigour, I am very hopeful that we ſhall have the ſatisfaction of improving it ſo far, as, if not totally to prevent the return of the aſthmatic complaint, at leaſt to render the paroxyſms much milder, and of ſhorter duration.

I am, &c.

P. S. I recollect that I have not ſaid any thing of tea-drinking, and ſhall therefore juſt mention, that it would certainly be of advantage if our patient ſhould make no uſe of that commodity.

CASE

CASE LV.

Of a Dyſentery, accompanied with an intermitting Fever.

SIR,

I AM ſorry to be of opinion that the Vicar's ſituation is attended with much danger, as his ſtrength is greatly reduced by the Dyſentery complicated with an intermitting fever, and both theſe diſorders ſo obſtinately reſiſt the uſe of medicines. I cannot adviſe any other method of cure than what you have already adopted. For a perſeverance in the uſe of bark is the only proper courſe for overcoming the intermittent, and with reſpect to the dyſentery, what more can be recommended than the evacuations you have already preſcribed, with the uſe of opiates, and aſtringent and balſamic glyſters? All that now remains for me is, to give you my opinion whether the uſe of every one of thoſe

thoſe remedies ought to be longer inſiſted upon, or on what particular claſs or claſſes of them our dependance is chiefly to be placed.

In conſidering a complicated caſe, the firſt attention is due to the complaint which appears to be the moſt urgent, which here no doubt is the dyſentery. That diſeaſe, we well know, can never be checked ſuddenly with ſafety; and yet ſuch a quantity of the bark as is requiſite to put a ſtop to the intermittent fever, if it ſhould not be carried off by ſtool, (in which caſe it would fail of its febrifuge effect) might be productive of that conſequence. If, on the other hand, while we endeavour to ſuppreſs the fever, we interpoſe ſome laxative for the ſake of the dyſentery, we again incur the hazard of rendering the bark ineffectual; and yet ſhould we not regard the indication that ariſes from the latter diſeaſe, there is the greateſt reaſon to expect that all its ſymptoms will be highly

highly aggravated. It is undoubtedly owing to this unfortunate oppoſition of contrary indications, that both diſorders hitherto baffle the remedies which you have ſo properly applied.

The difficulty of cure is in this caſe greatly increaſed by the weak ſtate of body to which the patient is reduced; and I ſee not what elſe can be done, than that we endeavour to cure both the diſorders, as ſpeedily, and with as little additional diminution as poſſible of the gentleman's ſtrength. For this purpoſe, therefore, we muſt be extremely ſparing of evacuations, and make uſe only of the gentleſt means for promoting ſuch as are neceſſary.

After cleanſing the bowels with a decoction of tamarinds, or a ſmall doſe of rhubarb, I would immediately again preſcribe the bark, to be taken in ſuch a quantity as is uſually ſufficient for ſtopping an intermitting fever; and in caſe there

there appeared any tendency to its paſſing off by ſtool, I would add to each doſe a few drops of laudanum. When an ounce, or at leaſt ſix drachms of the bark has been adminiſtered in this manner, it will be proper to repeat the laxative, in order to carry off the putrid humours which may be collected in the inteſtines; as it likewiſe will occaſionally, as long as griping, or any other of the dyſenteric ſymptoms remain. Balſamic and aſtringent glyſters, wherewith opiates are mixed, if neceſſary, ſhould alſo be frequently given; nor ſhould we neglect to adminiſter remedies of the ſame intention by the mouth. I now mention balſamics; for with reſpect to aſtringents, the bark, which has been already recommended, will ſerve for that purpoſe. It will alſo be adviſeable that the patient frequently take a diſh of camomile tea, not only as it poſſeſſes a febrifuge quality in a ſmall degree, but as likewiſe by its antiſeptic and carminative

minative virtues, it is of conſiderable advantage in the dyſentery.

With regard to the regimen which the gentleman ought to follow, it is ſufficient to obſerve that it ſhould be reſtorative and aſtringent, as well as moderately cordial. Broths of mutton or veal, with the jelly of hartſhorn or calves-feet, may form a part of his diet; as may alſo rice and ſago. For drink, he may uſe the white decoction, Pyrmont water, or ſometimes lime water; and, if his pulſe admits of it, I would adviſe that he now and then take a glaſs of claret or good red port.

As ſoon as he is capable of uſing exerciſe, he ought to ride daily on horſeback, but muſt take particular care to avoid the catching of cold. He runs a great riſque of either a hectic fever or dropſy. I heartily wiſh he may eſcape both.

And am, &c.

CASE

CASE LVI.

Of a Gleet.

SIR,

THE gentleman's diſorder, whoſe caſe you ſent me, is plainly a Gonorrhæa Simplex, or gleet, not owing however to the venereal diſeaſe, which he affirms he never had in his life, but to a relaxation of the ſeminal veſſels from ſome other cauſe. It certainly is a complaint that is always extremely difficult to cure; and I have known ſeveral inſtances of its having produced the Tabes Dorſalis. But even when it proceeds not ſo far as to occaſion an actual conſumption, it greatly weakens the body, and excites many nervous ſymptoms.

In order to the cure, it is indiſpenſibly neceſſary that the patient abſtain from all laſcivious familiarities with women,

and even, as much as poſſible, from thinking on venereal ſubjects. For contemplations of that kind generally produce an immediate diſcharge either of the ſeminal liquor or the mucus of the proſtate glands, in perſons who are ſubject to a gleet.

Some phyſicians adviſe a vomit to be given in the beginning of the cure, with a view to cauſe a revulſion from the relaxed parts; but to me that practice ſeems ſuperfluous; as the effect it produces is extremely temporary. I think therefore that the patient ought to enter immediately on the uſe of ſtrengtheners. Let him take the bulk of a nutmeg of the following electuary two or three times a day.

R. Cort. Peruvian. pulv. ſexunciam, alum. rup. ſemunciam, ſyr. limon. q. ſ. f. electuarium.

When

When the ſtomach nauſeates this compoſition, which frequently happens on uſing it ſome time, I have adviſed with equal ſucceſs the alum alone, made into pills, with only ſome ſyrup and a ſmall quantity of the conſerve of red roſes or rather hips, in order to prevent them from crumbling. In this manner the patient may take to the quantity of a ſcruple, or half a drachm, two or three times a day.

As the cure of this complaint is commonly extremely tedious, it is proper that the patient intermit the uſe of the aſtringent remedies for a week or two occaſionally, to prevent their becoming habitual to the conſtitution. In theſe intervals he ought to have recourſe to the cold bath, which I have often known prove highly advantageous.

The patient muſt live temperately in reſpect both to eating and drinking; for exceſs in either of theſe articles promotes the ſeminal diſcharge, and increaſes the weakneſs of the relaxed veſſels. Exceſſive walking or dancing will alſo be found prejudicial.

I am glad to be informed that the Captain, who was lately our patient for a ſpaſmodic aſthma, has found ſo much benefit from the preſcription. Perſuade him to perſevere in the regimen; and believe me to be, &c.

CASE

CASE LVII.

Of a Dropſy of the Thorax.

SIR,

FROM the ſymptoms of which Mr. ---- complains, I am fully convinced that his diſorder is a dropſy of the right ſide of the thorax, and not any morbid affection of that lobe of the lungs. He has a difficulty of inſpiration, attended with a perceptible weight in the right ſide of the breaſt, and the ſenſe of as it were an undulation in that part of the cheſt; but his cough is quite inconſiderable, and he ſometimes has none at all.

I have always found this diſorder prove extremely obſtinate againſt evacuating remedies; although, excluding the operation, it is on theſe only that the hopes of a cure can be founded. If the gentleman is plethoric, it will be proper

to draw ſome blood, in order to facilitate the abſorption of the extravaſated ſerum; but if that be not the caſe, the effect of diuretics and hydragogue purgatives may be tried. I have ſometimes been ſenſible of benefit where I ſuſpected this diſorder, from the pilul. ſcillit. or the oxymel ſcillit. mixed with cinnamon water. It is my opinion, however, that the water ought to be evacuated by an opening made in the thorax. But as we ought to be certain of the diſeaſe before the operation is attempted, it will be proper that you again examine with attention, how far the ſymptoms of which the patient complains correſpond with my idea of the caſe; and if this diagnoſtic ſhould be confirmed by the concurring opinion of others of the profeſſion, who had alſo an opportunity of viſiting the patient, it would no doubt be ſtill more ſatisfactory. I ſhall be glad to know the iſſue of the enquiry,

And am, &c.

The

The diſorder proved to be a dropſy of the thorax, as had been ſuſpected, and the operation was ſoon afterwards performed, which relieved the patient from his complaint.

CASE LVIII.

Of a Schirrus in the Uterus.

SIR,

ON peruſing your anſwer to the queries I ſent you relative to Mrs. ---- I am confirmed in the opinion that her diſorder is a ſchirrous tumor of the uterus. Though I at firſt ſuſpected this to be the caſe, I delayed determining any thing on the ſubject, till I ſhould be informed of every circumſtance that uſually accompany the diſeaſe, and diſtinguiſh it from other complaints to which many of its ſymptoms bear a ſimilarity.

She not only is ſenſible of a weight in the region of the uterus, but the tumor may be aſcertained by its hardneſs and reſiſtance, on laying the hand over the part, when ſhe is placed in a ſupine poſture. The diagnoſtic would no doubt have been ſtill more ſatisfactory, had the ſtate of the uterus been examined by introducing the finger; but as that was found impracticable, our opinion muſt be governed by the other concomitant ſymptoms of the diſorder. I have ſeveral times, however, known a ſchirrus of the uterus to be confounded with other tumefactions of that region, ſuch as conception, a dropſy, or a mole. But a ſchirrus may be diſtinguiſhed from conception by the ſwelling of the uterus, which in the latter is more uniformly round, while in the former caſe inequalities of the protuberance are perceptible. By a ſchirrus likewiſe the health of the woman is much more affected than by conception.

conception. In pregnancy the breaſts increaſe in bulk, but in a ſchirrus on the contrary they appear diminiſhed.

A ſchirrus may be diſtinguiſhed from a dropſy of the uterus by laying the hand over the part. For in a dropſy the ſubſtance of the uterus ſeems uniform to the touch, while in a ſchirrus it is hard and unequal.

A ſchirrus of the uterus may be known from a mole by all the ſame ſigns as from pregnancy.

On applying theſe obſervations to the caſe of our patient, I think there is no doubt to be entertained of the nature of her diſorder; and it now remains that we propoſe the method of cure, which I am ſorry to ſay is too often ineffectual in diſorders of this kind, eſpecially when they are of long ſtanding. That of the gentlewoman, our patient, is certainly advanced beyond an incipient ſtate, as

ſhe

ſhe has been ſenſible of it upwards of eight months; but there is yet one circumſtance in her favour, which is, that the tumor appears to be pretty ſoft, and not to have attained the indurated condition of a perfect and legitimate ſchirrus. I ought to add, that the part is not affected with ſhooting pains, which is another circumſtance that countenances a favourable prognoſtic; and that the gentlewoman's conſtitution is apparently good. From all theſe conſiderations, I think there is ground to hope for ſucceſs in attempting a reſolution of the ſchirrus, which is therefore the intention to be proſecuted.

According to this plan, it will be proper that the patient be blooded from time to time, in order to relax the veſſels of the part affected, and prevent any inflammation from the uſe of reſolving medicines, eſpecially as her menſes flow not ſo freely as uſual. The remedies I would recommend are the following, which

which it is ſafeſt to adminiſter in ſmall doſes.

R. Sapon. Venet. drachmas tres, gum. ammoniac. tartar vitriolat. ana drach. unam, calomelanos ſcrupul. unum, ſyr. 5 rad. aper. q. ſ. f. maſſ. pilul. formand. in pil. gr. quinque.

Three of theſe pills are to be taken twice a day, and the uſe of them perſevered in as long as the patient feels neither pain nor heat in the part affected; on the ſmalleſt perception of which ſymptoms, there would be a neceſſity for laying them entirely aſide. But of ſuch an accident I do not apprehend that there is any danger, though it ſeemed proper to mention it.

During the uſe of deobſtruent remedies, it will be adviſeable that the gentlewoman frequently take ſome laxative,

tive, in order to prevent the advancement of the ſchirrus, and evacuate the humours which may have been diſſolved by the medicines.

When ſhe has continued in this courſe a few weeks, I would recommend the uſe of ſome chalybeate water for completing the cure; as nothing is more advantageous in diſorders of this kind, when the obſtructions appear not to be in ſuch a ſtate as to forbid having recourſe to a remedy which increaſes the force of the circulation.

The gentlewoman ought to confine herſelf to a diet of eaſy digeſtion; avoiding every thing that is viſcid, flatulent, or high-ſeaſoned. She muſt totally abſtain from malt and ſpirituous liquors, and be very ſparing in the uſe even of wine. The moſt ſuitable drink for her would be, a light decoction of the woods, in which a ſmall quantity of ſome of the opening roots may be boiled.

She

She muſt alſo abſtain from all violent exerciſe, in caſe of exaſperating the tumor; and ſhould ſhe be accidentally ſeized with a cough, on catching cold, it will be adviſeable to check it by pectoral and anodyne medicines as ſoon as poſſible, to prevent it from irritating the tumor, the ſeat of which is always compreſſed in violent exertions of the lungs.

Were the palliative method of cure to be followed, which, when the ſchirrus appears to be in ſuch a ſtate as not to admit of reſolution is the only expedient, it would be entirely the ſame with what I have mentioned, excluding the deobſtruent medicines and chalybeate water. But the favourable circumſtances in this gentlewoman's caſe afford room for expecting a happy termination of the complaint by proſecuting the radical plan. I hope therefore that our endeavours will prove ſucceſsful:

And am, &c.

The

The patient uſed the medicinal courſe above preſcribed for nine or ten weeks and afterwards drank of the waters at Scarborough, which effectually removed her diſorder.

CASE LIX.

Of the Hydrocephalus Internus.

Dear SIR,

I HAVE once and again peruſed the caſe of the young gentleman the ſon of Squire ----, your neighbour, and am of opinion that his complaint does not proceed from worms, which I own however you had reaſon at firſt to ſuſpect, but from a cauſe of a very different nature; though I believe there are few phyſicians in the iſland who would not have concurred with you in the very plauſible diagnoſtic which you formed. In truth, there is no diſeaſe more fallacious in its ſymptoms than that which I imagine

gine to be the complaint of our preſent patient. Its ſimilarity, in many circumſtances, to the diſorders excited by worms, undoubtedly juſtified your inference of its being owing entirely to that cauſe. But it is probable, that the unſucceſsful uſe of the moſt approved anthelmintic medicines has by this time rendered you diffident in reſpect to the ground of that opinion. Will you accede to my conception of the caſe, when I tell you it is the hydrocephalus internus? I frankly acknowledge that I have been often deceived by the ſymptoms of this diſorder in its firſt ſtage, which like you I aſcribed to worms; and it was not till lately, from obſerving the appearance of the diſeaſe in its more advanced periods, that I have been led to ſuſpect the cauſe of the ambiguous ſymptoms which accompany its earlier ſtate.

According to your account, the boy is of a good conſtitution. About a month, or ſix weeks ago he complained of a pain, which

which ſometimes affected the head, ſometimes the ſhoulder, and at other times ſeized the legs. Sometimes, his indiſpoſition was perceptible only from a ſickneſs at the ſtomach. In a week or ten days after, the pain was more fixed in the head, deep ſeated, and increaſed in acuteneſs.

At the beginning of the diſeaſe you remarked, that the patient's pulſe was quicker than natural, and that he had feveriſh heats, eſpecially towards the evening. The boy ſeemed averſe to light, and was uneaſy when placed in any other than an horizontal poſition. The pulſe has lately diminiſhed in velocity, but is become extremely irregular; and the pupils of the eyes are remarkably dilated.

From the commencement of the diſorder the boy has been coſtive, and his ſtools for the moſt part of a dark greeniſh colour. He frequently ſcreams out when

when awake; and when aſleep, you are informed that a great part of the whites of his eyes are viſible.

All the ſymptoms above mentioned convince me, that the diſorder under which the young gentleman labours is the real hydrocephalus internus; and I am exceeding ſorry to ſay, that my experience will not permit me to pronounce any other than a fatal prognoſtic of the diſeaſe. I have known ſeveral patients die of the complaint, but none recover of it; whether this unfortunate termination of the diſorder be owing to ſome irremediable circumſtance in its nature, or that its exiſtence is not apprehended ſo early as is neceſſary for the purpoſe of the cure.

If my opinion be well founded, you will ſoon obſerve, if you already have not, that the boy's pulſe is greatly increaſed in velocity. The heat, which

before was chiefly confined to the head and præcordia, will become more general and violent, and the reſpiration laborious and irregular. The pupils of the eyes, from being uncommonly dilated, will at length become paralytic and immoveable, and an event ſucceed which mocks all medical aſſiſtance.

After what I have ſaid, it may ſeem vain to propoſe the uſe of any remedies, and I cannot deny the allegation; yet even in caſes where our endeavours have never been crowned with ſucceſs, it is ſtill more eligible to preſcribe from the principles of theory, than entirely to abandon our patients. In this caſe, therefore, the moſt adviſeable means of cure ſeems to be, to evacuate the ſerous humours which are collected in the brain, by diuretic and hydragogue medicines. A ſeton in the neck, or an iſſue between the ſhoulders, might be preſcribed on the ſame indication. Perhaps

haps I may add, that antiſpaſmodics, joined with nitre, might prove beneficial for abating the irritation which ſo evidently exiſts in the diſeaſe. I ſincerely regret that it is not in my power to afford more ſatisfaction in this caſe,

And ever am, &c.

The diſorder proved to be the hydrocephalus, and the boy died ſoon after.

CASE LX.

Of various Symptoms ſucceeding a Tertian Fever.

SIR,

THE caſe of the gentleman in the fens, of whom you write me, is certainly of a very ſingular kind, and I concur with you in opinion that it has ariſen from prematurely ſtopping the intermitting fever. The involuntary, convulſive motion, which frequently ſeizes his arms, legs, and head, and the ſtammering of his tongue, afford evident proof that the nerves of theſe parts are affected, though it is difficult to account for the cauſe of the irregular intermiſſion of the ſymptoms.

As his pulſe was full, you certainly judged right in ordering him to be blooded, and likewiſe in preſcribing a vomit, which in my opinion ought to be

be repeated. I would alſo propoſe that he be purged once or twice with the tinctura ſacra, previous to each doſe of which he ſhould take five or ſix grains of calomel in a pill, for one or two nights.

After theſe evacuations it ſeems to me adviſeable, that he make uſe of the cold bath; and that, on coming out of it, his body be well rubbed with a towel for ſome time. This expedient imitates in ſome meaſure a paroxyſm of the intermittent, the return of which would probably prove an effectual remedy for the complaint. Should he at the ſame time take half a pint of the decoct. lignor. two or three times a day, with twenty or thirty drops of the vinum antimonii, it might be attended with great advantage. A perſpirative regimen is undoubtedly moſt ſuitable for him. As the caſe is uncommon, I ſhall be glad that you acquaint me with the iſſue of it, And believe me to be, &c.

The gentleman followed the courſe that was adviſed, and in three weeks was perfectly cured of his complaints.

CASE LXI.

Of the means of preventing Abortion.

MADAM,

I Embrace with great pleaſure the opportunity of obeying your ladyſhip's commands, in reſpect to the means of preventing abortion, of which you ſeem apprehenſive. As the injunctions for that purpoſe might prove rather too minute for your ladyſhip to attend to, I have drawn them up in the form of a memorial, for the uſe of the apothecary whom your ladyſhip employs in the country. With the moſt ardent wiſhes for the continuance of your ladyſhip's health, I have the honour to be, &c.

For

For the Counteſs of -----

Memorial of the means of preventing Abortion.

THE general cauſes of abortion being all ſuch accidents as occaſion a violent agitation or compreſſion of the womb, theſe are particularly to be guarded againſt, in indeavouring to obviate that effect.

Pregnancy may be divided into two ſtages, each whereof is attended with its peculiar ſymptoms; which, when violent or long continued, may prove the cauſe of abortion. The firſt ſtage is what intervenes between conception and the end of the fourth month; and the other is the ſpace from that term to the end of geſtation. The complaints which commonly produce abortion in the firſt of theſe periods are, nauſea and vomiting, longings, and fainting.

If the vomiting be mild, it is not to be conſidered as dangerous, but on the contrary, may have good effect; both as it tends to prevent too great a degree of plethora, and aſſiſts the extenſion of the uterus. If it prove violent however, or continue beyond the end of the fourth month, it then demands our ſerious attention, and ought by all means poſſible to be alleviated; not only as it greatly fatigues the patient, but renders her liable to abortion.

If her ladyſhip's vomiting be violent, it will be neceſſary to have recourſe to bleeding, to diminiſh the plethora which is moſt commonly the cauſe of that ſymptom. Afterwards, I would adviſe the uſe of gentle ſtomachic remedies; ſuch as ſpearmint tea, or ſome drops of the compound ſpirit of lavender taken in a glaſs of wine. A more efficacious remedy, however, will be a few ſpoonfuls of a ſaline julep. Two or three

ſpoon-

ſpoonfuls may be taken at firſt, and one ſpoonful every hour, or half hour after, till the vomiting abates. The following preſcription may ſerve for the purpoſe.

R. Sal. abſynth. drachmma unam, ſucc. limon. ſeſcunciam, aq. cinnamom. ſimp. uncias tres, ſacchar. all. drachmam unam. M.

When this mixture does not ſucceed in the form of a julep, it will ſometimes have a good effect when taken in the act of effervescence; and therefore I think that her ladyſhip ought to take at leaſt the firſt doſe as ſoon as poſſible after the ingredients are mixed.

External applications may likewiſe be uſed for relieving this complaint. I have often obſerved great advantage from the emplaſt. ſtomachic. alone, when applied not only to the pit of the ſtomach, but

but likewiſe over the left hypochondrium.

While the vomiting continues, the body ought to be kept open, in order to diminiſh the fulneſs of the veſſels, which is the principal cauſe of the complaint. But this muſt be attempted by the gentleſt laxatives, as every thing of a ſtimulating kind might endanger abortion. The lenitive electuary is among the moſt ſuitable medicines for the purpoſe.

I have already taken notice of the expediency of bleeding, if the vomiting ſhould be violent; and the operation ought to be repeated, if the complaint does not yield to gentler remedies.

If, notwithſtanding all the means that have been mentioned, the retching ſhould continue ſo violent as to diſturb her ladyſhip in the night, it will be neceſſary to give ſome gentle anodyne at bed-

bed-time; ſuch as fifteen or twenty drops of laudanum, in two or three ſpoonfuls of mint or cinnamon water.

The next ſymptom which I mentioned, as uſually incidental to the earlier ſtage of pregnancy, was longings. Theſe involuntary deſires may generally be diſcovered, from the penſiveneſs and air of dejection which for the moſt part accompany them. They ought always to be gratified, where it can conveniently be done, as a diſappointment is ſometimes known to produce abortion.

A diſpoſition to fainting during pregnancy, is perhaps owing to ſome particular affection of the nervous ſyſtem from that cauſe; but it is frequently occaſioned by frights, the ſight of ſome diſagreeable object, ſudden ſurpriſes, &c. When any of theſe emotions is the cauſe of the ſyncope, it is ſometimes productive of abortion.

When

When a fainting or ſyncope happens in the ſtate of pregnancy, it ought to be treated exactly in the ſame manner as if it ſupervened in another ſiuation; ſuch as, by the application of volatile or fetid ſubſtances to the noſtrils, dipping the hands in cold water, &c. Afterwards ſome wine, or other ſuitable cordial, ſhould be given, to revive the languid ſpirits.

Pregnant women are ſometimes ſubject to great ſinkings, and a depreſſion of the ſpirits, though a ſyncope does not enſue. For relieving thoſe complaints, as well as to prevent fainting, bleeding is highly adviſeable, if the perſon be plethoric. In thoſe habitual languors, it is proper to take occaſionally either a doſe of ſal volatile oleoſum, or a ſpoonful of ſuch a mixture as the following.

R. Cinnamom. ſimp. uncias quatuor, ---ſpirituoſ. uncias duas, ſp.

ſp. lavendul. comp. confect. alkerm. ana, ſemunciam. M.

In ſome women, fainting is the conſequence of great evacuations, or of a hyſterical diſpoſition; and in ſuch caſes the prevention of a ſyncope is not to be attempted by bleeding, but by the uſe of cordial remedies. I have no reaſon for thinking, however, that her ladyſhip is of that conſtitution.

The complaints which are moſt urgent to pregnant women after the end of the fourth month are, vomiting, difficulty of breathing, and cough. The vomiting, at this time, as well as the difficulty of breathing, and cough, depends on the extraordinary compreſſion ariſing from the diſtenſion of the uterus. Should any of theſe complaints be particularly troubleſome to the counteſs, it muſt be treated in the ſame manner as on ſimilar occaſions. If the vomiting continue obſtinate after all other means have been

been uſed, recourſe muſt be had to opiates, which generally abate its violence.

In caſe an immoderate cough, or difficulty of reſpiration, bleeding will be neceſſary, and ought to be repeated, according as the conſtitution will juſtify, and the urgency of the ſymptoms require. Should her ladyſhip be ſeized with either of theſe complaints, it will be proper that, while in bed, ſhe lay with her head conſiderably raiſed, as an erect poſture is always moſt favourable to reſpiration. In this caſe, mild pectorals alſo are to be adminiſtred; ſuch as, ſperma ceti and honey, or an infuſion of liquorice juice, linſeed, and tuſſilago.

Coſtiveneſs is another inconvenience which is uſual in the advanced ſtage of geſtation, ariſing from the increaſed preſſure of the uterus on the rectum. It ſometimes occaſions ſevere colical ſymptoms, and may prove the means of abortion, on account of the violent compreſſion

preſſion to which the uterus is ſubjected by the teneſmus and conſequent ſtraining. This ſymptom, therefore, of coſtiveneſs ought always to be prevented, or early remedied by gentle laxatives; ſuch as the lenitive electuary, manna, magneſia, &c. But if the complaint has been long neglected, theſe medicines will prove inſufficient for removing it; and in ſuch caſes it is often adviſeable to bleed the patient in the arm, to the quantity of ſix or eight ounces, or even more, provided that ſhe can bear the evacuation; leſt there ſhould exiſt any degree of inflammation on account of the violence and long continuance of the preſſure. An emollient, lubricating glyſter ought then to be adminiſtered, to facilitate the diſcharge of the hardened fæces.

Flooding is an accident to which women may be ſubject at any period of geſtation, and is frequently produced by a violence of the complaints I have already

ready mentioned; viz. ſevere retchings to vomit, exceſſive coughing, and much ſtraining at ſtool, &c. It is always an alarming ſymptom, particularly in the advanced ſtage of pregnancy. When it happens, it is to be treated in the ſame way as an immoderate flux of the menſes; only if it continues obſtinate, and the patient's life is in danger, the delivery ought immediately to be attempted.

When, from any of the cauſes which have been mentioned, a pregnant woman is ſeized with irregular pains in the back and belly, attended with ſtrong alternate contractions and relaxations of the abdominal muſcles, and a frequent forcing down, as in real labour, an abortion is much to be apprehended. To prevent that accident, the patient ſhould immediately be put to bed, and kept perfectly quiet. If plethoric, ſhe ought to be blooded, and that too, repeatedly, if requiſite. Aſtringent remedies, both internal

ternal and topical, are alſo to be uſed; and opiates are indiſpenſible for allaying the pains; as no medicines can prove ſucceſsful while the irritation continues. But beſides theſe general rules, the method of cure muſt be adopted to the particular cauſes of the flooding, which I have already mentioned, and therefore need not repeat.

Theſe curſory obſervations, under the prudent management of the apothecary, it is preſumed, will afford ſuch directions as may ſerve to prevent abortion, and conduct her ladyſhip to a happy termination of her pregnancy.

CASE LXII.

Of bloody Urine.

SIR,

IN the account with which you have favoured me of Mr. ---- there is no mention of any ſymptom that can induce us to aſcribe his diſorder, which is that of voiding bloody urine, to a ſtone either in the kidnies or bladder. His complaint is accompanied with no pain, or purulent diſcharge, and he never has any difficulty in making water. I am therefore of opinion, that his diſorder is owing to a relaxation of the renal veſſels, and perhaps a too diſſolved ſtate of the blood. The indications of cure, accordingly, will be to remedy theſe two defects. But as the gentleman is of a plethoric conſtitution, it is proper to begin with bleeding; and I doubt not but the complaint may be ſomewhat alleviated, at leaſt for a time, by that operation. The

day

day after being blooded, let him take a doſe of rhubarb in the morning and an opiate at night; and let them be repeated once or twice. As to the opiate, it may be given any night when he is reſtleſs.

When theſe things have been premiſed, I would adviſe that recourſe be had to the Peruvian bark, which may be taken in any form that is moſt agreeable to the patient, though the way of giving it in ſubſtance is certainly the moſt efficacious. He may take half a drachm or two ſcruples of it twice or even thrice a day.

For anſwering the other indication of cure, which was that of giving a thicker conſiſtence to the blood, balſamic diet, of ſago, gellies, barley broth, and the like, will be beneficial. He may alſo take frequently a diſh of marſhmallow-tea, or a draught of barley water, thickened by the addition of gum arabic. A glaſs of

claret will be of ſervice in his caſe, but it is proper that he abſtain from ſtrong malt liquors.

I have once or twice known this diſorder prove invincibly obſtinate in old people. Even in thoſe who are young it is extremely dangerous, when the evacuation of blood is great, or continues long; as a dropſy or conſumption is often the conſequence of it. But the gentleman who is now our patient, being apparently of a good conſtitution, and ſenſible of no diminution of his ſtrength by the diſorder, I am hopeful that the courſe which has been preſcribed will effectually perform a cure.

I remain, &c.

The gentleman uſed the bark, and a mucilaginous diet, as had been directed; and in three weeks or a month his complaint entirely diſappeared.

CASE

CASE LXIII.

Of the Chorea ſancti Viti.

SIR,

FROM the deſcription of the caſe of the young girl, the clergyman's daughter, it is evident that her diſorder is what is termed the chorea ſancti Viti; a diſeaſe extremely rare, and which I have ſeen only once in my whole practice. The characteriſtic ſymptoms of it are a lameneſs of one of the legs, with a convulſive motion of the arm of the ſame ſide; both which are ſimilarly affected in this girl.

However much the muſcles of voluntary motion are affected in this diſorder, I have never heard of an inſtance where it proved difficult to cure. The method to be purſued in the treatment of it is, to begin by bleeding and purging; the latter of which may be repeated two or

three times, as likewiſe may the former, if there is any fulneſs of the pulſe. After theſe evacuations, it will be proper to have recourſe to ſtrengthening remedies. I would adviſe the following for the purpoſe.

R. Cort. Peruv. pulv. uncias duas, rad. ſerpentar. Virgin. drachmas duas. Infunde per quatuor vel ſex dies in vin. Liſbon. lib. duas, & colaturæ adde, vin. chalybeat. uncias octo.

Let her take three or four ſpoonfuls of this tincture twice a day; and it would be very proper that ſhe join with it, or take as often in a glaſs of wine ſeparately, fifteen or twenty of the following drops.

R. Tinctur. fuligin. ſemunciam, caſtor. ſuccin. ana, drachm. duas. M.

When

When the quantity above preſcribed of the tincture has been taken, it would be proper that ſhe make uſe of the cold bath once a day, for ſome time.

It has been found of ſervice to apply cupping glaſſes, without ſcarification, every other day, to the muſcles affected with the convulſion. I have no doubt but the girl will be entirely relieved from her complaint by the uſe of theſe means.

And am, &c.

CASE LXIV.

Of a Gutta ſerena.

SIR,

THE natural and healthy appearance of the gentleman's eyes of whom you write me, leaves no room to queſtion, that the diſorder which unfortunately affects them is a real gutta ſerena. The vigour of his ſight has been diminiſhing, it ſeems, for ſome time; and I much fear whether our beſt endeavours can prove effectual for preventing the total deprivation of that valuable bleſſing of life. What affords much ground for ſuch an apprehenſion is, that the gentleman is pretty far advanced in years, is of a weakly and cachectic habit of body, and about two years ago had a ſtroke of the palſy in his left ſide.

All theſe circumſtances conſidered, I cannot venture to preſcribe blood-letting,

ting, which, in an oppoſite condition, would have been adviſeable. Purging is therefore the only evacuation I would recommend, and it ought to be frequently repeated. Rhubarb, or, the infuſion of ſena, are moſt ſuitable for the purpoſe. After taking one doſe of either of theſe to cleanſe the Primæ Viæ, it would be proper that he take frequently at night ſome grains of calomel, and repeat the purgative occaſionally; ſuch as once in the three or four days. The quantity of calomel may be eight or ten grains, to be given two or three nights ſucceſſively preceding the purge.

If the calomel ſhould operate by ſtool, I would join with it half a drachm or two ſcruples of theriac, or the confect. Fracaſtor. ſ. m. or give with it ſome drops of laudanum; but if the looſeneſs ſhould ſtill continue, and gripings enſue, it will be proper to ſuſpend the uſe of the calomel, till the diarrha either ceaſes ſpontaneouſly, or be carried off by a purge.

This

This proceſs may be continued for a month or ſix weeks, if found neceſſary; but on the intermediate days of the evacuation, and afterwards, I would adviſe the uſe of the following remedies.

R. Milleped. viv. ſacchar. alb. ana uncias duas. Contunde ſimul, & fiat expreſſio cum vin. alb. aq. fœnicul. uniuſcujuſque lib. una, tinct. ſuccin. uncia una.

Four or five table ſpoonfuls of this mixture is to be taken every morning for a conſiderable time.

When other remedies have failed, a ſalivation has been recommended for this diſorder; but, conſidering the conſtitution of the patient, I do not think that expedient very adviſeable in the preſent caſe; and I would have the gentleman

content

content himſelf with a partial preſervation of ſight, if even that can be ſecured, rather than by ſalivation attempt a radical cure; the iſſue of which would ſtill be uncertain, and the means uſed for obtaining it, increaſe his natural debility.

I am, &c.

CASE

CASE LXV.

Of a Lientery.

SIR,

THE caſe of the gentleman who has long been troubled with a diarrhæa, is now plainly changed into the lientery; as appears from the aliments, which are diſcharged in quite a crude ſtate. The worſt ſymptoms frequently attending this diſorder, I find are not yet ſupervened; ſuch as the tympany and jaundice; but from the extreme weakneſs of the patient's bowels, there is very little ſecurity againſt the acceſſion of them.

The ſtomach and inteſtines appear to be equally affected in this caſe; not only from the food undergoing no alteration in its paſſage through the digeſtive organs, but from the celerity with which it is diſcharged ſo ſoon after eating.

I have

I have already ſignified my opinion reſpecting the danger of the gentleman's ſituation, on account of the great debility of his bowels in particular, and his ſtrength being ſo much reduced by the long continuance of the preceding diſeaſe. Yet I muſt confeſs, though perhaps the acknowledgement will appear ſomewhat ſingular, that in my opinion there is a greater chance of his recovery from this diſorder, under the ſymptoms of a total indigeſtion of the food, than if the aliments had been converted into chyle before they were diſcharged. Such a declaration may ſeem extraordinary, when it is conſidered, that in the latter caſe the action of the ſtomach is ſtill exerted in ſome degree, while in the former it is almoſt totally ceaſed; and certainly, were the point to be determined entirely by a regard to theſe circumſtances, the falſehood of my propoſition would be unqueſtionable. But I do not form

form my opinion of the caſe from the ſtate of the natural function of the ſtomach, ſo much as from the circumſtance to which the diſcharge of the chyle is frequently owing in the Cæliaca paſſio, or leſſer degree of the lientery. The circumſtance to which I allude is, obſtruction of the lacteals, which I look upon as a diſorder ſtill more invincible than a weakneſs of the alimentary canal.

Though the patient therefore appears not to be in the moſt deſperate ſtate of the diſeaſe, his ſituation nevertheleſs is extremely dangerous, as I before obſerved. For his appetite is almoſt entirely gone, and his thirſt is conſiderable.

Bleeding is generally recommended in the beginning of this diſorder, where the patient is plethoric, or a feveriſh diſpoſition attends. But I am not ſatisfied as to the propriety of that evacuation in the caſe of this

this gentleman. For though there be reaſon to ſuſpect ſome degree of fever, from the thirſt of which he complains, (as you have not mentioned the ſtate of his pulſe, I can judge only by that ſymptom) yet the tedious diarrhæa he has ſuſtained, added to the ſubſequent diſeaſe, muſt undoubtedly have ſo far diminiſhed a plethoric habit of body, if ſuch was his caſe, as to render any artificial evacuation now unneceſſary, if not extremely prejudicial. I am therefore of opinion, that venæſection is not adviſeable in this caſe.

As both vomiting and purging have been ſo frequently repeated for the gentleman's diarrhæa, I am little inclined alſo for proſecuting theſe evacuations any farther; at leaſt I think it will be ſufficient to give one gentle doſe of ipocacuana and rhubarb, and immediately proceed to the uſe of aſtringents. In this caſe, it ſeems more adviſeable to preſcribe theſe in a liquid than a ſolid form;

form; as in ſuch a ſtate they will be more readily taken into the vaſcular ſyſtem, and their virtues communicated to the debilitated parts, in the courſe of the circulation. I would recommend the following tincture for the purpoſe.

R. Cort. Peruvian. pulveriſat. uncias duas, aurantior. unciam unam, rad. ſerpentar. Virgin. ſemunciam. Infunde per quatuor dies in vin. Liſbon. lib. duobus, & colaturæ adde aq. cinnamom. ſpirituoſ. ſemilibram, ſp. lavendul. comp. uncias duas.

I would propoſe that the gentleman take two or three ſpoonfuls of this tincture every four or five hours; for where the ſtomach and bowels are ſo weak and irritable, it is better to give a ſmall quantity often, than to hazard the immediate diſcharge of the medicine, by ſtimulating their fibres too much.

But

But nothing will contribute more to recover the ſtrength of the bowels than riding on horſeback, which the gentleman ought diligently to uſe, as often as the diarrhæa permits.

In the mean time, the patient muſt be ſupported by a warm, ſubaſtringent diet, moderately ſolid. Sago, jellies, and rice-gruel, may very properly conſtitute a part of his food. Taking ſometimes a diſh of mulled claret will alſo be ſerviceable; and, for his drink, he ought to uſe water in which a bit of cinnamon has been boiled, with wine, a toaſt and nutmeg. Should the aliments continue to be diſcharged, there would be a neceſſity for endeavouring to ſupport him by nouriſhing injections. I ſincerely wiſh ſucceſs to the means preſcribed,

And am, &c.

By the uſe of the aſtringent medicines and regimen, the gentleman's diſorder gradually abated; and by habitually riding on horſeback for many months after, his conſtitution was greatly improved.

CASE LXVI.

Of a Hectic Fever, accompanied with other ſymptoms.

SIR,

THE gentleman, of whom you write me, has undoubtedly all the ſymptoms of a hectic fever; and from ſome of thoſe which you mention, I think it highly probable that the ſource of his diſorder is either in the omentum or meſentery. For he is ſenſible of a weight, tenſion, and dull pain about theſe parts; and there is ſometimes the appearance of a purulent diſcharge in his urine, and ſometimes

times in his ſtools. I am therefore fully of opinion, that an abſceſs is formed in one or other of the parts abovementioned, which is the origin and ſupport of the hectic fever. Whether the ſeat of the ulcer be the omentum or meſentery, can be judged of only by the patient's feeling, which is liable to deception. If it be in the latter of theſe viſcera, the ſymptoms of its exiſtence, viz. the tenſion, weight, and obſcure pain, will ſeem more deeply ſeated than if they were inherent in the former. Whichever of the two is affected, the prognoſtic will be nearly the ſame. For tho' the omentum be far leſs eſſential to the animal œconomy than the meſentery, yet it ſcarce can be totally conſumed, eſpecially in a perſon ſo fat as the patient is repreſented to be, without ſupporting a hectic fever ſo long as to become unalterably confirmed: not to mention the danger of the inteſtines alſo being conſumed by their contact with the ulcerated part.

It is difficult to ſay what can be preſcribed for this gentleman with any proſpect of advantage. As the indication of cure, however, is to cleanſe and heal the ulcer, if poſſible, we can have no other reſource than in the aſſiſtance of vulnerary medicines. I would recommend a free uſe of the following decoction, as what promiſes the greateſt benefit.

R. Herb. hederæ ter. fol. plantagin. ana drachmas tres; coque in aq. fontan. lib. iii. ad lib. ij. addens ſub finem coctionis, ſucci glycyrrhizæ drachmas duas, & cola.

With reſpect to the cure of the fever, which in this caſe is ſymptomatic, it is my opinion that our dependance muſt be placed entirely on a milk diet. If the pulſe, however, ſhould at any time be full

full or hard, or there were ſigns of freſh inflammations beginning in the belly, bleeding would be neceſſary, and ought to be repeated as the ſymptoms required. But of the expediency or neceſſity of that operation, you only, who have the opportunity of viſiting the patient, are the proper judge; and it gives me pleaſure to think, that the management of him is entruſted to one who is ſo capable of diſcharging the duties of his profeſſion with applauſe to himſelf, and benefit to thoſe under his care.

I am, &c.

This patient died in about a month after. His belly was opened, to examine the ſtate of the viſcera, when a great part of the meſentery, which had been the ſeat of the ulcer, was found to be conſumed.

CASE LXVII.

Of a Palpitation of the Heart.

Dear SIR,

THE palpitation of the heart, with which the young woman, whoſe caſe you have ſent me, is afflicted, is really one of thoſe diſorders that, when not purely ſymptomatic, has always baffled my utmoſt efforts. Nor is this much to be wondered at, when we conſider, that it is a complaint which may ariſe from various cauſes, that lye entirely beyond our power to correct. A thorax too narrow, calloſities in the aorta, a dropſy of the pericardium, or a polypus in the heart itſelf, are known to produce it. In this young woman, the diſorder does not appear to ariſe from any fault in the formation of the cheſt. If there be therefore any fixed cauſe for it, I am afraid that it is of ſuch a nature as is totally incurable. If that be really the

the caſe, I know not what more can be done, than to palliate the complaint by occaſional bleeding, and enjoining a ſpare, cooling diet, and abſtinence from violent exerciſe.

You have been very minute and accurate in endeavouring to aſcertain whether or not the complaint proceeded from a hyſterical ſource; and I wiſh you had found reaſon to be ſatisfied of the affirmative in that enquiry. For then we might have entertained greater hope of radically curing, or at leaſt greatly palliating the complaint. I readily agree with you in opinion, that as ſhe appears to be ſubject to no other hyſterical ſymptom whatever, we ſcarcely can ſuppoſe the palpitation to be owing to ſuch a cauſe. Beſides, I am inclined to imagine, from the gradual advancement of the palpitation, that it derives its origin from ſome fixed cauſe, which has for ſome time been increaſing in the body. If that, therefore, be actually the caſe,

the complaint appears to me to be irremediable. I ſhould ſtill, however, think it were proper, to try the effect of antihyſteric medicines; as there is at leaſt a poſſibility of its proceeding from that cauſe, and as it is the only ſuppoſition upon which there is any ground to expect that our aſſiſtance ſhould prove ſerviceable.

I beg you will preſent my compliments to all the good family at--- and believe me to be, &c.

CASE

CASE LVIII.

Of a Diabetes.

SIR,

I Entirely accede to your diagnoſtic reſpecting the caſe of our friend Dr. ----- whoſe diſorder evidently is the genuin diabetes; and in a perſon of his years, and relaxed conſtitution, I am very apprehenſive of the conſequence. Beſides his making urine in an immoderate quantity, and having a great thirſt, which are the principal characteriſtics of a diabetes, the diſeaſe it ſeems is ſo far advanced, that he has an ædematous ſwelling of the loins and feet; ſymptoms that afford additional proof of a great debility of the ſolids. As to the quick and weak pulſe, theſe ſigns are never abſent in this diſtemper, being the concomitants of a hectic fever, which generally accompanies it.

The

The diſeaſe has certainly advanced very rapidly; for when I ſaw him in town on his return from Bath, not two months ago, he made no mention of any ſuch complaint, and was at that time in a pretty good habit of body, though I could perceive that he had not quite recovered the lowneſs of ſpirits to which he is unfortunately become too ſubject. The immoderate diſcharge of urine, however, with which he is now ſeized, is not at all of that kind which attends a hypochondriac complaint. For in the latter, the evacuation is irregular, as proceeding from temporary ſpaſmodic conſtrictions, and is not accompanied with any fever.

However obſcure, in this caſe, the procatarctic cauſe of the diſorder may be, the nature of the diſeaſe affords ſufficient proof of the indications which are to be purſued in the method of cure. Unqueſtionably theſe are, to correct the

relaxation

relaxation of the renal glands, and to give a more balſamic conſiſtence to the attenuated ſerum of the blood, which is ſecreted too copiouſly.

In the firſt place, it is proper that we pay due attention to his regimen; for it is always of the greateſt conſequence, where the craſis of the blood is vitiated, that ſuch a diet be made uſe of as beſt tends to alter the morbid diſpoſition of the fluids; and without a right regulation of the aliments, which are taken in a quantity greatly ſuperior to that of medicines, the ſalutary effects of the latter muſt be perpetually counteracted. He ought therefore to uſe a ſolid rather than liquid diet, which ſhould conſiſt of ſuch meats as, though eaſy of digeſtion, afford a gelatinous chyle. Gellies, ſago, and ſhell-fiſh, are particularly well adopted to his ſituation; and in reſpect to drink, the moſt ſuitable is Briſtol, lime-water, the Decoctum Album, or Tinctura Roſarum. I think that the firſt chiefly,

chiefly, and now and then eight or ten ſpoonfuls of the laſt, would be preferable to the other two.

He ought to uſe moderate exerciſe daily; and it will be of advantage that he wear a napkin or broad girt, drawn pretty tight round his loins.

I know not whether the air of the place where he reſides be not of too humid a nature. If that is the caſe, which is a point that you can well determine, it would certainly be of advantage that he remove to a drier ſituation. For, in diſorders ariſing from relaxed ſolids, the influence of the atmoſphere, whether good or bad, is particularly efficacious.

With reſpect to the medicines proper for him, theſe may be compriſed within very narrow compaſs. The alum whey is a remedy from which I have often obſerved good effects, and it will be adviſeable that he take a diſh of it twice or thrice

thrice a day. The chief dependence, however, in my opinion, is to be placed in the Peruvian bark, of which I would have him take two ſcruples thrice a day, in any form which is moſt agreeable.

If he uſes a gelatinous diet, it may ſupply the place of incraſſating medicines; otherwiſe a drachm of gum arabic may be diſſolved in a quart of whatever he drinks.

Pray aſſure the good Doctor of my beſt wiſhes and ſervices,

And believe that I always am, &c.

CASE

CASE LXIX.

Of the Hæmorrhoids.

SIR,

I AM favoured with your requeſt reſpecting Mr. ----- who is much troubled with the hæmorrhoids, and is deſirous of being informed whether or not they may be repelled with ſafety; as ſome years ago he was ſeized with a vertigo, which was imputed by the phyſician to ſuch an attempt.

As the gentleman is of a plethoric habit of body, I am clearly of opinion, that to repel the hæmorrhoids without premiſing venæſection, might prove of very dangerous conſequence; becauſe, in that caſe, the redundancy of blood would oppreſs the ſyſtem, and might occaſion the rupture of a veſſel in ſome of the principal and vital organs of the body. The hæmorrhoids in this gentleman,

man, depending not on a depauperated ſtate of the blood, which is frequently the cauſe of them, but on the oppoſite conſtitution, he will not only receive benefit from the evacuation of the ſuper-abundant fluids, by bleeding, but in fact the operation will prove the radical cure of the complaint; I mean, that it will totally ſuſpend the return of the hæmorrhoids till a plethora is again produced.

I would adviſe that he be blooded to the quantity of about ten ounces; after which as the hæmorrhoids are external, if the veins be much diſtended, it will be proper to apply one or two leeches to the part. This will probably remove the complaint, or if it ſhould not entirely yield, let the gentleman take about the third part of an ounce of the following electuary, either at night or morning for a few days.

R. Electuar. lenitiv. uncias duas,
flor. ſulphur. unciam unam,
ſyr.

ſyr. roſar. pallid. q. ſ. f. electuarium.

When the pain of the hæmorrhoids is very troubleſome, it is proper to foment the part with a warm fomentation of the emollient herbs, to which a ſmall portion of camphorated ſpirits is added; and after uſing this, an anodyne liniment may be applied; ſuch as the unguent. alth. mixed with a fourth part of laudanum. But where the part is very much pained, the ſitting over the vapour of the diſcutient decoction, is preferable to fomenting.

The ſame applications, the leeches excepted, are alſo proper in the internal hæmorrhoids; only that the fomentation muſt be introduced by injection, and the liniment conveyed by means of a doſſil.

But to be more particular in regard to the expediency of repulſion. Where the

the hæmorrhoids are not preceded by any diſeaſe, and do not appear to be critical, I make no ſcruple of applying repelling ointments to the part, whether internally or externally ſeated; after the general plethora is diminiſhed, where that exiſts, and the pain and diſtention of the hæmorrhoidal veins have been abated by leeches or topical diſcutients.

The gentleman ought at preſent to uſe a thin and ſpare diet, to abſtain from ſpirituous liquors, and avoid much exerciſe, particularly riding on horſeback.

I am, &c.

CASE LXX.

Of an Opthalmia.

SIR,

AS the opthalmia, which you write me, has proved ſo obſtinate againſt the beſt antiphlogyſtic proceſs of cure that could be preſcribed, there is the greateſt reaſon to ſuſpect, that it is either of the ſcrophulous or venereal kind. But which of the two, it is impoſſible to determine with any degree of certainty, without knowing the conſtitution of the gentleman, and being informed by himſelf of certain particulars which are neceſſary to elucidate the point. I ſhall therefore briefly give you my opinion reſpecting the means to be uſed for his recovery, on the ſuppoſition of its ariſing from one or the other of the cauſes I have mentioned.

If

If the diſorder appears to be of a ſcrophulous nature, it will be proper to put the patient upon a courſe of calomel; of which he may take eight or ten grains at bed-time, for two or three nights ſucceſſively, and afterwards purge it off with ſena or rhubarb. Should the complaint not ſoon yield, however, to this courſe, it would be proper to try the effect of ſome other mercurial preparation, leſt the gentleman ſhould be too much exhauſted by the frequent repetition of the purgatives. In that caſe, I would recommend the uſe of the æthiops antimonialis, which is an excellent remedy in all viſcidities of the blood. A ſcruple or more of it may be taken twice a day. My advice will be completely fulfilled, if he alſo make uſe of the Peruvian bark, which has been found to be almoſt ſpecific in this diſorder. I think it may very properly be taken along with the æthiops, in the quantity of half a drachm or two ſcruples.

If there ſhould be found reaſon for ſuppoſing the complaint to be of a venereal origin, a mercurial courſe would alſo be adviſeable, with the addition of mercurius dulcis to the collyriums.

I have confined myſelf to preſcribing officinal remedies only; but if the opthalmia is of the ſcrophulous kind, and ſhould obſtinately reſiſt the uſe of the medicines which I have already adviſed, it would be extremely proper that the gentleman have recourſe to the chalybeate purging ſpa waters. The cure, I doubt not, will prove tedious, but there is ground to hope that it will be accompliſhed. In the mean time,

I am, &c.

CASE

CASE LXXI.

Of Deafneſs.

SIR,

I AM not at all ſurprized that you are at a loſs to determine the preciſe method of cure which ought to be adopted for recovering Mrs. ---- from her deafneſs. There are few diſorders of which the cauſes are both more various and imperceptible than thoſe which produce this malady; and till the particular cauſe be aſcertained, we never can preſcribe with any probability of ſucceſs.

As the lady is but little turned of fifty, you very juſtly conclude, that the diſorder is not to be aſcribed to old age, of which deafneſs is often a concomitant infirmity. By the uſe of deterging injections, you have likewiſe ſatisfied yourſelf that it is not occaſioned by wax obſtructing the auditory paſſage. We muſt

therefore admit the cauſe of it to be different from either of theſe two, and in forming our diagnoſtic have recourſe to the hiſtory and conſtitution of the patient, ſo far as is requiſite for our purpoſe.

With reſpect to her hiſtory, her menſes diſappeared about four years ago; from which time to the preſent, the only complaint of any conſequence that has ſeized her is the deafneſs, which did not ſupervene till more than three years after the ceſſation of her natural diſcharge, and therefore cannot be imputed to that cauſe. Neither has any accident happened which we might ſuppoſe to have been productive of the diſorder; ſuch as loud noiſes, concuſſions, &c.

The ſphere in which our diagnoſtic is to be found is now reduced to a narrower compaſs, and, in order to proſecute our enquiry, we muſt conſider the lady's conſtitution.

She

She is, it ſeems, of a plethoric habit of body, and ſomewhat a catarrhous diſpoſition; as you conclude from her being ſometimes ſubject to ſlight and tranſient attacks of the tooth-ach, a ſtoppage in the glands of the noſe, and ſometimes a great diſcharge from them.

From the knowledge of theſe circumſtances, I think we may now take upon us to determine the nature of the complaint, and to maintain the opinion of its proceeding originally from a catarrh.

But now that I recollect my omiſſion, I beg pardon for not having particularly mentioned the cauſe to which you are inclined to impute the lady's complaint; which I think is, a relaxation of the tympanum from the moiſt air of the marſhy ſituation in which ſhe lives. That ſuch a relaxation is frequently the cauſe of deafneſs, there is not the ſmalleſt doubt; but I imagine, that in the

preſent caſe, the moiſture of the air is not otherwiſe acceſſary to the diſorder, than as it may give riſe to the catarrh. For were the deafneſs really owing to ſuch a relaxation as has been mentioned, is it not highly probable that both ears would have been affected at the ſame time? but it appears, that the lady retained the ſenſe of hearing in her right ear, for almoſt two months after the left was affected. I make no doubt, therefore, but that you will now concur with me in the opinion I have intimated, and accordingly ſubſcribe to the propriety of treating it as a catarrhous complaint.

I have often known, however, that a diagnoſtic perfectly well founded, has been diſcredited by the obſtinacy of the diſeaſe, or the natural tendency of the patient's conſtitution towards it; and as Mrs. ---- is of a catarrhous diſpoſition, it might perhaps be too bold to affirm the probability of entirely overcoming her diſorder. But if we cannot perform

form a radical cure, I am hopeful that we ſhall at leaſt be able to afford ſome alleviation of the complaint.

I look upon bleeding as not eligible in general in conſtitutions diſpoſed to catarrhous fluxions: nevertheleſs when the perſon is plethoric, a moderate evacuation of blood undoubtedly renders the circulation through the ſerous veſſels more free; and in that view proves of advantage in diſorders, in which it would not be indicated on any other principle. I think it will not be improper, therefore, that the lady be blooded in a moderate quantity.

After bleeding, ſhe may take a vomit of ipocacuanha, in order to unload the glands about the throat, and thereby diminiſh the redundancy of ſerous humours.

Purging, however, is ſtill more ſtrongly indicated, and ought to be repeated for

two

two or three times. Rhubarb, or an infuſion of ſena, will anſwer the purpoſe. But it ſeems to me highly adviſeable, that ſome grains of calomel be either taken with the phyſic, or given antecedently to it. I would not propoſe to give it above once, or twice at moſt, before it is purged off, as its tendency is to looſen the craſis of the blood, and, for the moſt part, to occaſion a flow of the humours towards the head. A few doſes, however, cannot be productive of much inconvenience in theſe reſpects, and may have ſome effect in removing the obſtructions which probably are the cauſe of the complaint.

But nothing, in my opinion, will prove ſo ſucceſsful for relieving the diſorder, as bliſters, which make a great revulſion of the humours from the parts near to which they are applied. One ought immediately to be laid behind each ear; and I think alſo to the nape of the neck. If the lady ſhould not

ſoon

ſoon find the diſorder mitigated by them, I would propoſe that they be kept open for ſome time; as there is reaſon to hope that the diſcharge which they occaſion, will be attended with the moſt beneficial effects.

According to the idea I have formed of the complaint, little advantage can be expected from any thing introduced into the cavity of the ears. I think, however, that after the evacuations abovementioned have been made, it would be proper to inſtill into them, occaſionally, a drop or two of ſome ſuch mixture as the following, in order gently to ſtimulate the parts that are affected with the obſtruction, and enable them to recover their former tone.

R. Sp. lavendul. comp. aq. Hungar. ana ſemi-drachmam. M.

I am

I am very hopeful that by the uſe of theſe means, the lady will in a ſhort time be relieved from her diſcouraging complaint; and that we ſhall have the pleaſure of finding our opinion of the cauſe of the diſeaſe confirmed by the ſucceſs of the method of cure.

I am, &c.

The evacuations above preſcribed were duly made, and the bliſters kept open near a fortnight, when the lady perfectly recovered the ſenſe of hearing in one of her ears, and very ſoon after in the other.

CASE

CASE LXXII.

Of a Palſy of the Tongue.

SIR,

AS the gentleman who has been ſeized with a total palſy of the tongue, is plethoric and in the vigor of life, you certainly judged right in bleeding him immediately, and perhaps you may find it adviſeable to repeat the operation; I mean upon the ſuppoſition that his pulſe continues full. For in ſuch a ſituation, bleeding is not only neceſſary for the cure of the preſent diſeaſe, but for preventing a more general palſy or an apoplexy.

I approve likewiſe of the purgative glyſter which was afterwards injected, and which alſo may require to be repeated; though after the firſt injection I think purges taken by the mouth are preferable,

preferable. It is probable, that the impediment of deglutition attending this complaint, has been the cauſe that induced you to poſtpone not only the uſe of purgatives, but alſo of a vomit, which properly ſhould precede them. I think it will be neceſſary, however, that means be uſed to convey theſe medicines into his ſtomach, as well as to aſſiſt the deglutition of his aliments.

If theſe general evacuations do not immediately produce good effect, I would adviſe the applying a large bliſter to the nape of the neck.

Let him frequently hold in his mouth ſome of the following mixture, as a gargle; of which it will alſo be proper that he take three or four ſpoonfuls thrice a day.

R. Sem. ſinap. cont. unciam unam, vin. alb. lib. unam.

Infunde

Infunde frigide, & colaturæ adde ſp. lavendul. comp. uncias duas.

Perhaps however before this time the cure is completed; for I have ſcarce ever known a palſy of the tongue that was not ſoon removed, where the patient was not old, and in a very bad habit of body. Indeed the palſy of this gentleman is uncommonly violent; as being not only accompanied with a deprivation of ſpeech, but an abſolute incapacity of conveying the food into the æſophagus. But notwithſtanding that circumſtance, I entertain great hopes of his ſpeedy recovery; which I think will be accompliſhed by the means here preſcribed. Before I conclude, let me again recommend the repetition of the bleeding, if the ſigns of a plethora ſtill remain.

I am, &c.

The

The palſy of this gentleman greatly abated on being blooded the ſecond time; and by the uſe of the tincture for a day or two, he entirely recovered. But a few months after, he died ſuddenly in the night, of an apoplectic fit, as was ſuppoſed.

CASE LXXIII.

Of a Vertigo.

SIR,

AS there is ground to imagine from Mr. -----'s conſtitution, and the total abſence of every hypochondriac ſymptom, that the vertigo with which he is troubled, is of the idiopathic kind, I by no means think chalybeate medicines ſuitable in his caſe; nay, I am of opinion, that the uſe of them might prove extremely dangerous. For in plethoric habits of body, ſuch as his is repreſented to be, I have ſeen the worſt effects produced by chalybeates, whether taken in the form of Spa waters, or any artificial preparation.

With reſpect to the probable iſſue of the diſeaſe, I am ſorry to be of opinion, that there is much danger of its terminating either in an apoplexy or epilepſy,

but particularly the former. To prevent ſuch a conſequence, it is requiſite that he uſe a ſpare diet; though, as he has been accuſtomed to high living, I would not entirely reſtrain him from fleſh and wine, taken in moderation. It will alſo be proper, that, when in bed, he lay with his head pretty much raiſed, to prevent too great a repletion of the brain.

The firſt ſtep in the cure is undoubtedly bleeding; of which the quantity muſt be determined by the fulneſs of the pulſe, and the violence of the diſeaſe. For it is chiefly by the free uſe of that evacuation, that we are to endeavour to prevent the vertigo from being changed into either of the two diſorders above mentioned. I look upon the jugular vein as the moſt proper for the operation in this caſe.

After bleeding, let a vomit be given, then apply a bliſter to the neck. But if the

the complaint is not removed ſoon after the application of the veſicatory, it will be proper to continue the diſcharge for ſome time. When the diſorder has become chronical, I have obſerved great benefit from an iſſue between the ſhoulders.

Along with theſe evacuations I would alſo adviſe the uſe of lenient purgatives, ſuch as ſena or rhubarb, which may be repeated every two or three days for a little time.

During the intervals of the laſt mentioned evacuation, it will be proper that the gentleman make uſe of cephalic remedies; from which I am hopeful he will experience much advantage. I would recommend the following electuary and julep for the purpoſe.

R. Conſerv. flavid. aurant. rad. valerian. ſylv. pulv. cinnabar. antimon. ana ſemunciam, ſyr. aurant.

aurant. q. ſ. f. electuarium. Capiat æger quantitatem n. m. ter in die, ſuperbibendo julepii ſequentis cochlear. quatuor.

R. Aq. rutæ uncias ſex, pæon. comp. uncias duas, ſp. lavendul. comp. unciam unam, ſyr. caryophyl. drachmas ſex. M.

I expect that by theſe means the gentleman will ſoon recover of his complaint. But it will be proper that for ſome time he obſerve the regimen which has been preſcribed; and particularly, that he guard againſt a repletion of the head.

I am, &c.

THE END.

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